

**Annex 2.a.**  
**Europe 2020: National Pilot Actions (6.000 Euros)**  
**Template for Final Report (max 4 sides)**

**Macedonian Anti Poverty Platform**

## **1. Introduction (including objectives/justification)**

The South East European (SEE) strategy for development: SEE 2020 – *Jobs and prosperity in a European Perspective*, was adopted by seven countries in the Region as the equivalent to EU 2020 Strategy at a conference of Ministers of Economy held in Sarajevo in November 2013. The direct participants in the SEE 2020 are: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Kosovo\*, Montenegro, Serbia and The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. Process of development, adoption and monitoring of implementation of the SEE 2020 has been coordinated by The Regional Cooperation Council<sup>1</sup>.

The purpose of the monitoring is to get insights in the design and implementation of regional level social inclusion policies as designed in SEE 2020 at national level in Macedonia, to produce a report on the implementation of the Strategy and develop position of MAPP and recommendations for the second mid-term phase of implementation.

Actions are supported by EAPN at European level. The objectives of this monitoring action are in line with strategic objectives of the Macedonian Anti Poverty Platform as well as EAPN at European level. One of the main strategic focuses of EAPN at European level is monitoring implementation of EU 2020 in the area of anti-poverty and social inclusion policies at EU and member states levels. Taking into account Macedonias' status of candidate country, EU 2020 is not perceived as a relevant framework. Since SEE 2020 represents a strategy that tries to introduce similar objectives and targets adjusted to the region of South-East Europe, it was important to understand what is the role of SEE 2020 in development and implementation of national social inclusion policies and how it is aligned with recent entrance in semester process policy framework.

## **2. Description of Activities carried out, (including any adjustments to Work Programme)**

Activities carried out:

- Development of the monitoring methodology;
- Desk review of the SEE 2020, Baseline report, relevant regional documents, web portal of RCC, national strategic documents;
- Interviews with representatives of RCC, Deputy Minister of Labor and Social Policy, a representative from the Macedonian Center for European Education;
- Drafting report;

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.rcc.int/pages/72/about-see-2020>

- Conference – public presentation of the Report, discussion, defining position of MAPP, revising conclusions and recommendations (24<sup>th</sup> December, 2015).

### 3. Evaluation of results and impact

The past period saw several national action plans and programs being adopted and implemented, which address social inclusion. None directly coming from SEE 2020 but inline with reaching the goals set therein. All activities so far have solely a national scope, though in the coming period (first half of 2016) activities aimed at removing barriers for providing services (including social services) at a regional level are planned. Activities related to the implementation of SEE2020 are carried out through a network of national coordinators: Ministry of Economy at the deputy minister level, and competent line ministries. The Ministry of Labor and Social Policy is a member of the Social Agenda Group. According to the carrying initiative from SEE2020 “Skills and Mobility“ in the framework of one of the main policies “Labor Market and Employment Policies“ as a part of the “Inclusive Growth“ pillar several activities have been performed. In december 2014, the Operative Plan for Services in the Labor Market was adopted, and implemented throughout 2015 as well as other active programs and employment measures. Although in the introduction of the document it calls upon EU2020 the activities and measures held within go inline with achieving SEE2020 targets. Another document adopted in 2014 calling on the EU2020 is the National Employment Action Plan of the Republic of Macedonia 2014-2015<sup>2</sup>. Other document adopted are the Action Plan for Youth Employment 2016-2020 with an overview of achieved targets from 2015, and National Employment Strategy for 2016-2020. A document not directly arising from SEE 2020 or EU2020 but in line with targets is the National Program for Decent Work 2015-2018. Other data available via reports published on the Ministry of Labor and Social Policy web site is mostly out dated and refers to past periods.

The Report produced and attached to this report indicates a prominent neo liberal nature of SEE 2020. Main focus of the Strategy is on trade liberalization in the region and increase of competitiveness. The Strategy is basically designed as growth strategy, with narrow understanding of growth, and its inclusive pillar is reduced to the employment and particularly in the form of increased regional mobility and health of labour force, with addition of social economy.

Data on most indicators are provided annually by the State Statistical Office of the Republic of Macedonia, and other are obtained from Eurostat, World Bank and the Central Bank of the Republic of Macedonia. There are some gaps in the data from 2010-2014 but most are sufficient for the purpose of this analysis (regarding the Republic of Macedonia). A serious

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<sup>2</sup> The National Employment Action Plan of the Republic of Macedonia was already reviewed in previous SEE2020 Baseline Report “Towards Regional Growth”, 2014: “Under the Inclusive Growth Pillar, the focus will be on supporting the creation of new jobs through active labour measures; increasing the labour market skills of the unemployed; enhancing youth employment; strengthening the institutional framework for labour and social policy; reducing poverty and promoting social inclusion; enabling easier access to health services for all citizens; setting up an e-system for the provision of health services; and cooperating internationally with the SEE countries in the area of health.” pp. 86;

remark can be made, is that for some countries, including Macedonia there are baseline values for large number of indicators, and basically it is hard to get the comprehensive picture on reaching targets and gaps at the present moment.

The findings indicated that monitoring of SEE is limited along all targets, as data are not easily available and indicators not fully transparent so it is hard to calculate values with same methodology. Monitoring tracker that is available on RCC web site is not updated (latest values are provided for 2012).

Main objectives of the pilot initiative were achieved and MAPP members now have main information about the Strategy, implementation process. EAPN members will have the opportunity to define their position and recommendation for next mid-term phase of implementation of SEE 2020 and national strategies.

#### **4. Learning points and future recommendations**

Important new knowledge obtained through the process and conference, from the standpoint of the Republic of Macedonia, was that in large part, regional efforts are difficult to execute due to different levels of development between countries in the SEE region. Also varied levels of political commitment by governments in countries from the SEE region make implementation of regional activities at the same paste, particularly sensitive.

Future activities of MAPP and EAPN need to focus on assessing the effects of existing action plans and on the implementation of the Action Plan for Youth Employment 2016-2020 and National Employment Strategy for 2016-2020. MAPP should remain vigilant in attempts to establish a collaboration with competent authorities and be recognized in the drafting of future action plans, along with other CSO's and continue a regional collaboration with organizations with similar goals.

#### **Attachments to be included**

- **Registration lists with signatures of participants for relevant meetings/events**
- **Copies of all relevant documents/reports/event programmes/press releases with website links /social media.**
- **Any translations.**