

Annex 2.a.

Europe 2020: National Pilot Actions (6.000 Euros)

Template for Final Report (max 4 sides)

EAPN Serbia

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 Council¹.

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 Serbia, to produce shadow report on the implementation of the Strategy and develop position of EAPN Serbia and recommendations for the second mid-term phase of implementation.

Due to the fact that there is no comprehensive and systematic development or social inclusion strategy in Serbia (Poverty Reduction Strategy expired in 2007), it was assumed that SEE 2020 framework can be the driver of national level developmental policies to certain extent, defining clear targets in the area of social inclusion and stimulating commitments of the country to incorporate these targets in national policies.

This action is supported by EAPN at European level. The objectives of this monitoring action are in line with strategic objectives of the European Anti Poverty Network Serbia 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. Since Serbia is candidate country, EU 2020 is not relevant framework. Since SEE 2020 represents strategy that tries to introduce similar objectives and targets adjusted to the region of South-East Europe, and because Serbia is entering EU semester process with new framework for aligning policies with EU, 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

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

- Desk review of the SEE 2020, Baseline report, relevant regional documents, web portal of RCC, national strategic documents.
- Interviews with representatives of RCC, Public Policy Secretariat of Republic of Serbia and SIPRU
- Drafting shadow report
- Workshop of EAPN Serbia – presentation of shadow report, discussion, defining position of EAPN Serbia, revising conclusions and recommendations (planned for 23rd December).

3. Evaluation of results and impact

The pilot action is not yet fully implemented and therefore it is still early to estimate fully results and impact. What is achieved so far is that we for the first time got the relatively comprehensive picture on SEE 2020 Strategy, and its coordination at regional and national levels. The shadow report produced and attached to this report revealed the prominent neo liberal nature of SEE 2020. Main focus of the Strategy is on trade liberalization in the region and increase of competitiveness. 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.

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).

Coordination process varies across the countries and Serbia is among countries that does not have more elaborated coordination mechanism (like for example Macedonia). Main stakeholders were responsive, and they accepted to answer the questions, but at national level there was not much information to share, as process of implementation is not very elaborated.

Main objectives of the pilot initiative were achieved and EAPN Serbia members now have main information about the Strategy, implementation process and its relations to the EU integration 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.

This exercise contributed to the capacities of EAPN Serbia to engage in policy making at national but also for the first time at regional level. This was also opportunity to develop internal mechanisms for peer review and building up joint position.

4. Learning points and future recommendations

One of the main new knowledge obtained through this process was the need to focus more on recent new framework for defining national reform policies. EAPN can focus in the next period simultaneously on national level in reviewing and advocating for more socially

responsible Economic reform programmes, and to advocate for more prominent social dimension of regional processes. EAPN members also have been learning to participate in 'light' semester process. However, this exercise showed us to focus more on Economic reform programs that will become main strategic framework at national level since 2016.

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.**