

SWG Education, Employment and Social Policy

The sector working group on education, employment and social policy was formed in 2015. The Ministry of Labour and Social Policy (MLSP) and the Ministry of Education and Science (MES) are responsible for operation of this sector group and their respective ministers chair the sector group's meetings.

In its work, the sector working group relies on the adopted rules of procedure, while membership is regulated under the decision for its formation. The sector group is comprised of representatives from state institutions competent in this area, the donor community and CSOs. It has a total of 133 members, of which 18 are civil society representatives.

In 2019, SWG Education, Employment and Social Policy held two plenary sessions on 20.9.2019 and 19.12.2019.

COMPETENCES:

- **formulation and implementation of national policies;**
- **utilization of foreign aid for the Republic of North Macedonia;**
- **competences related to operation of the National Investment Committee;**
- **tasks related to EU integration;**
- **stimulating employment and supporting social and economic integration, including for minorities and vulnerable groups; and**
- **improving education quality, relevance of curricula and addressing the labour market needs for qualified and trained labour force.**



ADVANTAGES:

- **The sector working group has adopted own rules of procedure and decision that defines all sector group members, including civil society representatives.**
- **From 2018, both ministries have established direct contacts with relevant thematic civil society platforms. The Council for Cooperation with and Development of the Civil Society is referred as the government's formal consultation mechanism for civil society participation, including use of the internal institutional opportunity for nomination of civil society members.**
- **CSOs participate in all meetings and sessions organized for the purpose of this sector group, in order to improve documents and indicators that will be used to monitor future reforms in this area.**
- **In 2019, the sector group held two official sessions, thereby complying with the relevant stipulation from its rules of procedure for holding at least two sessions per year. As part of the project "CSO Dialogue - Platform for Structural Participation in EU Integrations", an additional meeting with CSOs was organized to discuss advancement of the model for civil society participation in the sector group.**

CHALLENGES:

- **To establish the practice for timely distribution of relevant documents to sector group members, in order to increase possibilities for quality inputs to documents under reconsideration.**
- **To establish a unified system for selection of civil society representatives.**

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