Funded by the European Union

EU4Labour Market Inclusion



Duration: 18.12.2023 - 17.12.2026

Countries:
Albania

EU contribution: € 2 700 000

Total budget: € 3 000 000

Implementer:
United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Arbetsformedlingen (Sweden – Public Employment Office), Albanian Disability Rights Foundation

Social media:
https://eu4lmi.al/Portal

Website(s): undp.org/albania/projects/eu-labour-market-inclusion-eu4lmi

Project description:

EU4LMI aims to support various typologies of community and social care services and models of active labour measures and inclusive practices in vocational education for groups at risk. EU4LMI, implemented by UNDP Albania with the Swedish Public Employment Service (Arbetsförmedlingen) and the Albanian Disability Rights Foundation (ADRF), strengthens labour market resilience through integrated approaches combining skills development, employment promotion and social care. It builds capacities of employment counsellors, social workers, VET providers, employers and civil society through tools and instruments for standardised integrated services, peer learning and Communities of Practice.

The project provides financial support to CSOs through intensive counselling for employment, basic skills training and supported employment for persons with disabilities. It improves the accessibility of employment offices and strengthens integrated services among local actors for vulnerable jobseekers. Through monitoring, evaluation and learning, EU4LMI captures results and promotes sustainability. The action follows a human-centred and rights-based approach and integrates gender mainstreaming to ensure equal opportunities and women's empowerment.

Expected results:

- A successfully built and functioning ecosystem of labour market actors through four regional Communities of Practice, engaging over 270 frontline professionals and fostering integrated case management approaches that link employment, social services, and skills development.
- Institutional ownership has notably increased, particularly within NAES. Drawing on best practices from the Swedish Public Employment Service and specialised support provided by ADRF, the programme has supported NAES in adapting and institutionalising tailored tools, methodologies, and service standards for vulnerable jobseekers, with a particular focus on persons with disabilities. This includes the development of standardised counselling approaches, supported employment methodologies, manuals and guidelines for reasonable accommodation at the workplace, and practical guidance that strengthen the quality, consistency, and inclusiveness of employment services nationwide.
- At the beneficiary level, the project has delivered measurable activation outcomes: 1522 vulnerable jobseekers enrolled in intensive counselling, basic skills (literacy, numeracy and digital) and supported employment and skills development for persons with disabilities, with a significant share completing programmes and transitioning into employment, further training, or other activation measures. The grant mechanism has proven effective in piloting scalable models, expanding coverage across all 19 municipalities and exceeding initial beneficiary targets. At the same time, the dedicated EU4LMI web portal has enhanced transparency, monitoring, and learning across interventions.
- Created replicable employment models for persons with disabilities, ensuring that vocational rehabilitation and supported employment become a long-term policy priority.
- Strengthened public-private partnerships, encouraging sustainable job creation through collaboration between NAES, SSS, LGUs, businesses, and CSOs.