FLASH REPORT

Event name
Establishing priorities for employment in Bosnia and Herzegovina: Learning from EU member state regions – 23 March 2021, online

Main objectives
To present and discuss a case study on employment policy developments in Belgium and Flanders, one of Belgium's three regions, and to support BiH employment policy officials in determining ways forward for establishing regional and country-wide priorities for employment.

Background
In its preparations to join the European Union, Bosnia and Herzegovina will increasingly be required to accommodate EU employment policy, including mechanisms and procedures to interface employment developments at entity and state levels with those at EU level.

SHORT DESCRIPTION OF THE EVENT
The event was held online in a plenary format with a detailed presentation by a Flemish expert on how employment policy in his region interfaces with national and EU level employment policies. A question and answer session allowed for participants to learn in more detail the employment policy-making process in Flanders. A total of 25 people participated in the meeting representing BiH state and entities, employment agencies and EU officials. The ETF Governing Board Member for Belgium also participated in the meeting.

KEY OUTCOMES/CONCLUSIONS
Building on the case study, the workshop allowed for BiH public employment officials to hear at first hand how both Belgium and Flanders successfully engage in the EU's employment policy monitorong and reporting process (European Semester), set against a complex governance architecture in the country. The workshop also allowed for an exchange amongst BiH stakeholders on issues and options in moving forward with their own employment developments. As a key outcome, BiH authorities with the support of EU Delegation, will engage with in better defining coordination mechanisms to support regional and state-level employment policy reforms.

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