

Flexibilization of the labour markets in the Western Balkans countries: Study on new forms of work, including platform work, and their implications for youth employment policies and skills development

Authorising unit: Project Management, Tools and Dissemination Unit

Deadline for expression of interest: 4 August 2021

Planned launch date: 5 August 2021

Budget: 70,000 Euro

Scope of the procedure:

The European Training Foundation (ETF) is engaged in the international debate about the future of work in developing and transition countries, in particular in the EU Neighbourhood, and undertakes actions analysing the impact of global trends on the human capital: its formation, development and utilisation.

Current digital developments accelerated by the Covid-19 pandemic are bringing an increased labour flexibility, influencing employment relationships by reshaping them or creating new ones. New forms of employment with labour on demand approach, including platform work, are becoming widespread, affecting particularly young people as new entrants to the labour market. Youth are also exposed to segmented labour markets with non-standard contractual arrangements or informal work.

The ETF contributes to the reinforced youth policy agendas in the Western Balkans, in particular through its regular monitoring of education and training outcomes for young graduates and performance of education systems; and fostering innovation and partnerships in vocational education and training and skills development with focus on inclusiveness, skills relevance and employability.

ETF is seeking a think-tank or research institute to investigate the changing patterns of work triggered by enhanced digitalisation and the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic and in the six Western Balkan countries - Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, North Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia, Kosovo¹, in particular on online freelancing and platform work. Specific attention will be put to the impact of the developments on young people school-to work-transition and job-to-job transition.

The country and regional reports to be produced, will focus on:

- The importance of new flexible working arrangements, in particular online freelancing and platform work, in the overall labour market, by analysing the scale and the nature of labour and skills demand, organisational models, profiles of online and platform jobs, profiles of online and platform workers and the career and in-work skills development options.
- Opportunities and challenges driven by the new forms of employment and their implications for the regulatory and institutional setting, aiming at quality job creation, inclusiveness, and skills formation and utilisation.

Type of contract: Fixed // Service

Selection criteria - technical and professional capacity requested to the economic operator:

1. A minimum of three years' experience in implementing similar research studies with a focus on changing labour market, new forms of employment, online/platform work, and new skills demand in EU and/or ETF Partner countries, including the Western Balkan region.
2. Being active part of a research community, with links to the EU and Western Balkan region, its research community at national and regional level in the fields related to the procurement procedure.

Are you interested in this procedure?

Please send an email to Procurement@etf.europa.eu including:

- Title of the procedure
- Name, address and contact person of the legal entity interested in participating in this procedure

¹ This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and in line with UNSCR 1244 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo Declaration of Independence