



Building a culture of social dialogue in the Western Balkans

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The context



A challenging environment:

- Ongoing political instability
- Deficit of effective social dialogue
- Low profile of social dialogue institutions
- Culture of social dialogue and compromise at an early stage
- Low participation of the social partners in LM governance

Key findings of the Economic and Social Councils peer review (ESAP project)

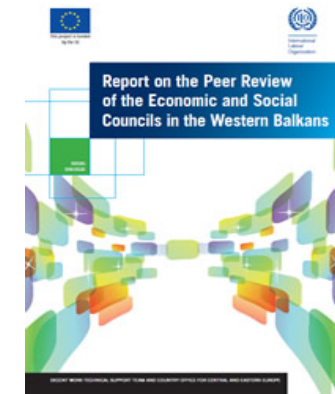


- Broad mandate of ESCs – but often perceived as the exclusive responsibility of the MoL and not the government.
- Limited influence on national policy and law-making processes – lack of institutional practice.
- Approx. 50% of bills falling under the ESCs have been discussed by ESCs.
- Lack of trust between tri-partite partners.
- Social partners lack technical capacity to deliver contributions.
- Lack of institutionalised mechanisms for monitoring the ESC’s recommendations.

Albania - Selected recommendations



- Agree on a set of objective, easy-to-check **representation criteria** to be set out in a regulation (e.g., a special law) and harmonize the level of representativeness in the
- Adopt a “**tracking**” **system** to assess the degree which NLC recommendations are acted upon at the Council of Ministers.



Montenegro - Selected recommendations



- Reduce the number of representatives of each party to **maximum eight**.
- **Change the composition** of the group of government representatives so that it includes officials from key Ministries covering the fields of economic development and entrepreneurship



Serbia - Selected recommendations



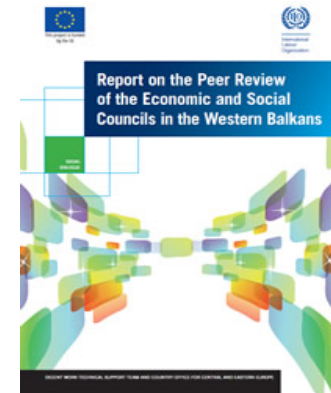
- Ensure bills are accompanied by the **ESC's recommendations** and opinions when submitted to Parliament
- Adopt procedure providing for **shorter time limits for feedback** once the ESC's recommendations and opinions are submitted to the Government
- Encourage better recognition by the Government of the ESC as the national tripartite advisory body and **increase its budget** to achieve this goal



Macedonia - Selected recommendations



- Wider **technical expertise** made available to the ESC through enhanced cooperation with research institutions, civil society organizations and academia.
- Enact and **implement procedures** to ensure that important draft laws and strategic documents are sent and commented upon by the ESC.



Conditions for success



- full commitment and ownership of national tripartite constituents
- all actors willingness to :
 - work on building mutual trust
 - focus on analysis and arguments
 - seek constructive compromise to bridge divergent interests

ILO support



- Legal and technical advice on the establishment of legal and institutional frameworks
- Provide national and sub-regional platforms for knowledge and practice sharing
- Facilitate networking and creation of communities of practice
- Exposure to international expertise and practice
- Develop knowledge base and provide wide access of potential beneficiaries



Thank you

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More information:

ILO in Central and Eastern Europe

www.ilo.org/budapest

ESAP project for WB

www.esap.online