



Action plans for lagging regions (2015-2020) Government Office of the Slovak Republic

POLICY LEARNING FORUM

Vocational training
for the long-term unemployed

Learning from inspiring
practices

Thessaloniki, Greece
15 and 16 June 2017



CEDEFOP
European Centre for the Development
of Vocational Training

What it is

- ▶ Development of regional action plans - strategy and selection of priorities to be pursued as well as projects and measures to be taken. The legal basis is the Law on Support of Lagging Regions (adopted in 2015, Act No. 336/2015 Coll.)
- ▶ Focus of action plans:
 - development of transport infrastructure and accessibility of the peripheral regions,
 - improvement of labour mobility
 - matching the needs of current and potential employers with local labour supply
 - improving the quality of primary and secondary education in the region
 - supporting vocational education and training
 - providing consulting services to starting entrepreneurs, small businesses and municipalities
- ▶ Preparation of projects – using local resources, creating jobs in sectors in which lagging regions have comparative advantages such as family farming and viticulture combined with processing of agricultural products, agro-tourism and traditional crafts. Many projects target long-term unemployed who have no or minimum qualification
- ▶ Development of:
 - regional councils (members: leaders of local government, businesses, the NGO sector, schools as well as other relevant stakeholders)
 - supported municipal social enterprises
 - regional centres for education of crafts and services (usually part of the local vocational school)
- ▶ Initially support is provided to the 12 (of 79) districts in Slovakia with the highest unemployment rate. In these districts, the unemployment rate was 1.6 times above the national average in at least 9 of 12 consecutive quarters.

How it works

To unleash the potential of lagging regions and their local communities, a bottom-up developmental approach is adopted. The regional councils in cooperation with experts prepare the action plans, which identify the medium to long-term goals for lagging regions and propose ways how to achieve them. These councils make all decisions on the development strategy, the priorities to be pursued as well as projects and measures to be taken. The bottom-up approach is combined with top-down decision-making of national and regional authorities. The plans also contain pilot projects that have long-term impact on sustainable development of lagging regions

Long-term unemployed who have no or minimum qualification benefit from new opportunities and the support provided by municipal social enterprises. Support targets developing skills and working habits to enable the LTU to smoothly move to the labour market. The action plans pay specific attention to the position of marginalized Roma communities which are often socially and economically excluded due to various types of discrimination, low education attainment or lacking work experience.

The first action plan (pilot) for the region of Kežmarok was developed in sine February 2016. Other lagging districts followed and action plans for them were drafted in 2016.

All activities are monitored continuously. Final evaluation of the action plans is scheduled for 2020. The Government Office of the Slovak Republic is currently evaluating other districts. There is a possibility that the scope of the initiative is widened to include other lagging regions.

Who is involved

1. Government Office of the Slovak Republic - Plenipotentiary of the Government for the Support of the Lagging Regions (coordination and lead)
2. Local government, businesses, representatives of NGO's, schools, other stakeholders (on the Regional Council)
3. Relevant ministries (assistance in coordination)
4. Regional public employment offices (providing data and assistance)
5. Education providers

More information

Monika Korkošová and Miroslava Klempová

monika.korkosova@minedu.sk

miroslava.klempova@minedu.sk

Lifelong learning department

Ministry of Education, Research, Science and Sport of the Slovak Republic

On the web

<http://www.nro.vlada.gov.sk/support-of-lagging-regions-in-slovakia/>

(Information on support for lagging regions, in English)