

# PROJECT PARTNERS

**LEAD PARTNER:** European Centre for Social Welfare Policy and Research (Austria)

- Research Centre of the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts (Slovenia)
- CIOFS - FP (Italy)
- Center for Social Research Halle (Germany)
- Ministry of Labour, Employment, Veteran and Social Affairs of the Republic of Serbia (Serbia)
- Employment Agency of Montenegro (Montenegro)
- European Movement in Albania (Albania)
- PUBLIC (Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia)

# ASSOCIATED PARTNERS

- The Austrian Federal Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Consumer Protection (Austria)
- The Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Integration Saxony-Anhalt (Germany)
- The Macedonian Ministry of Labour and Social Policy (Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia)

# CONTACT

Project Coordinator: **Sonila Danaj**  
(European Centre for Social Welfare Policy and Research)  
danaj@euro.centre.org  
[www.euro.centre.org/projects/detail/1673](http://www.euro.centre.org/projects/detail/1673)



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*For further information please consult:  
<http://ec.europa.eu/social/easi>*

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# BACKGROUND

The posting of workers, regulated by the Directive on the Posting of Workers (96/71/EC), has been a major channel for cross-border labour mobility within the single European labour market.

Although posting is used by all member states to some degree, the highest mobility has been from lower-income countries in the South and East of the EU to higher-income countries in the West and the North.

Posting was and continues to be of particular importance during the transitional periods when some member states restrict the labour market access for workers from new member states.

In view of the recent history of migration towards EU member states since the fall of the previous political regimes, this migratory trend is expected to continue once the candidate countries from the Western Balkans become full members.

## AIMS

The **EEPOW Project** aims to proactively address the issue of posting of workers at its pre-accession stage by assisting Eastern European countries, especially the four candidate countries Albania, FYROM, Montenegro, and Serbia, in implementing the Directive already before it gets into force, and by assisting in the prevention of social dumping.

The way it does that is

1. by assessing the institutional needs of the candidate countries to prepare for the directive and prevent social dumping;
2. by implementing mutual-learning activities (peer reviews) in the EU-MS together with the candidate countries to enable for learning from best practices; and
3. by working in partnership with policy-makers, civil servants, state agencies, and the social partners.

## OBJECTIVES & ACTIONS

The project contributes to European Cohesion and Solidarity within the EU and between the EU and the candidate countries in the Western Balkans.

Specific **objectives** include:

- improving transnational multi-stakeholder cooperation
- increasing access to information
- strengthening the evidence base through empirical research
- building institutional capacities.

**Actions:**

- assessment of the institutional capacities of candidate countries to implement the Directive on the Posting of Workers,
- cooperation among participating countries' stakeholders through country workshops and peer reviews,
- information sharing through events and publications.