

Assessment of effectiveness, efficiency and impact of the ESF Community support and of additional funds specifically attributed to the Youth Employment Initiative

Pursuant to Art. 19 of the Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council (EU) No. 1304/2013 representatives of the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family SR as Managing Authority for the Operational Programme Human Resources for the programming period 2014 - 2020 (hereinafter only “ OP HR “) elaborated a report whose object was to evaluate a progress in the implementation of the Youth Employment Initiative (hereinafter only “ YEI “) and measures taken at national level to support its implementation. The evaluation involved the period from September 2013 to December 2015 and focused on priority axis 2 of the OP HR.

The evaluation found that grant agreements were signed within three national projects (hereinafter only “ NPs “) up to December 2015 with the expectation to be implemented from January 2016. It includes NP Practice to Employment, NP Successfully into the Labour market and NP Graduate Practice Starts the Work.

NP Practice to Employment provides employment support for young people under 29 years of age in order to increase their employment by promoting their professional skills, knowledge and practical experience through the incorporation of the mentee and practice with employers that create jobs for this purpose. The NP Successfully into the Labour market solves notably the support for young people under 29 years who before taking a created job did not have their first regular employment, i.e. they did never had a job that lasted at least six consecutive months. Support is also oriented for initiation of self-employment among young people that is assessed very positively. The NP Graduate Practice Starts the Work is to empower young people through practice at the employer and to encourage employment after the end of practice with the same employer.

Grant agreements signed within those three NPs were linked to a thorough preparation of their project intents, including setting indicators that began in 2014 and continued in 2015.

Through these measures it is expected to promote several thousand jobs which will contribute to reducing youth unemployment. Currently, any relevant outputs of the projects are not available since they are at an early stage of implementation and therefore it was not possible to assess the effectiveness, efficiency and impact of the EU aid for youth employment in Slovakia. Nevertheless after assessing the NPs intents it can be already stated that economic setting of parameters, indicators and financial conditions admits positive assumption to ensure effectiveness, efficiency and impact of the EU aid in support of youth employment. On the basis of available documents it may be generally stated that Slovakia continues to implement the tools of active labour market policies under the Guarantees Initiative for young people under 29 years and to support the long-term unemployed following the successfully implemented projects of the Operational Programme Employment and Social Inclusion 2007 - 2013. Thanks to active labour market measures and national projects implemented under the YEI and Guarantees for young people, young people's transition from education to the labour market will be facilitated and their employment rate will be increased in Slovakia.