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EC-OECD Webinar

Organised in cooperation with the European Commission's Directorate-General for Structural Reform Support (DG-Reform) and the Estonian Ministry of Social Affairs

INSTITUTIONAL AND REGULATORY SET-UP OF PROVIDING ACTIVE LABOUR MARKET POLICIES IN ESTONIA: POSSIBILITIES FOR IMPROVEMENT?

Friday, 4 September 2020

Context

The Estonian labour market made remarkable progress over the past years, with record-high employment rates and low levels of inactivity. The economic consequences of Covid-19 have changed this picture considerably. Furthermore, even under a positive scenario of a gradual phasing out of the epidemic, its labour market consequences are likely to persist for some time and will constitute a significant challenge in the months and possibly years to come. In addition, even before the break-out of Covid-19, there has been scope for improvements in labour productivity and some population groups have been in need of specific assistance as they have lagged behind in the labour market. Designing well-tailored and effective active labour market policies (ALMPs) plays a key role to provide suitable assistance in connecting all population groups with employment opportunities and facilitating the transition into better jobs, thus helping Estonia to exploit the full potential of its labour market. It can enable the country to address mismatches in the labour market, better cope with the current and future crises and support economic progress.

The OECD analysis of the set-up of ALMP provision in Estonia

The European Commission's Directorate-General for Structural Reform Support (DG-Reform) and the OECD are providing technical support to Estonia on improving the provision of ALMPs, funded through the European Union's Structural Reform Support Programme (SRSP). The OECD is conducting an assessment of the institutional and regulatory framework of labour market policy provision in Estonia and a quantitative analysis on ALMP needs, outreach activities and services provided in Estonia. The project is planned to be completed in Autumn of 2020.

Objective of the webinar

The webinar will bring together the key stakeholders involved in the design and delivery of active labour market policies (ALMPs) in Estonia as well as experts from Germany, Slovenia and Iceland. It will be an opportunity to discuss the strengths and weaknesses of the current legal, regulatory and institutional set-up of ALMPs in Estonia and to learn from the systems in place in other countries. Its purpose is to stimulate discussions between the different stakeholders and experts in order to understand if there is scope for improvement in the regulatory and institutional setup in Estonia and discuss ideas for possible change.



Agenda

Timetable in the Estonian time (UTC+2)

14:00-14:15	Welcome
(15 min)	Mark Keese (OECD, Directorate for Employment Labour and Social Affairs, Skills and Employability Division) Tanel Kiik (Minister of Social Affairs, Estonia) Marko Bucik (European Commission, DG-Reform)
14:15-14:30	Session 1: Institutional and regulatory set-up in Estonia for the provision of active labour market policies (in plenary)
(15 min)	Mark Keese (OECD, Directorate for Employment Labour and Social Affairs, Skills and Employability Division) <u>Preliminary results of the analysis of the regulatory and institutional setup of ALMP provision conducted by the OECD</u>
14:30-15:45	Session 2: Good practices from other countries (in plenary)
(20 min)	Andrea Kröning (Federal Employment Agency, Germany) <u>The institutional set-up of providing active labour market policies in Germany</u>
(20 min)	Damjana Šarčević (Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities, Directorate for the Labour Market and Employment, Slovenia) Brigita Vončina (Employment Service of Slovenia, Slovenia) <u>The institutional set-up of providing active labour market policies in Slovenia</u>
(20 min)	Gissur Pétursson (Ministry of Social Affairs, Iceland) Unnur Sverrisdóttir (Directorate of Labour, Iceland) <u>The institutional set-up of providing active labour market policies in Iceland</u>
(15 min)	Discussion
15:45-16:30	Session 3: Possibilities for improvement (discussion in 4 break-out groups)
(45 min)	Discussion of the potential to improve the Estonian system, including drawing on the examples of Germany, Slovenia and Iceland Topic 1: Which aspects of ALMP provision should be in the law and which aspects should be regulated more flexibly? Topic 2: What should be the right balance between the political actors (the Parliament, the Government, the Minister of Social Affairs), interest groups (social partners) and ALMP experts (Ministry of Social Affairs, the Estonian Unemployment Insurance Fund) to design ALMPs? How to achieve that?



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Topic 3: Are the inputs of all relevant stakeholders taken into account in the design of ALMPs that are coherent with national strategies and objectives? Whose input is missing, what role could these stakeholders play?

Topic 4: What should be the role of the Ministry of Social Affairs, the Estonian Unemployment Insurance Fund as an organisation and its Supervisory Board vis-à-vis ALMP implementation, ALMP design, coordination with other stakeholders and ensuring coherence of employment policy with national strategies and objectives?

16:30-16:55 Session 4: Summary of the discussions (in plenary)

(25 min) **Presentation of the results of the group work and general discussion**

16:55-17:00 Concluding remarks (in plenary)

(5 min) **Mark Keese** (OECD, Directorate for Employment Labour and Social Affairs, Skills and Employability Division)
Marko Bucik (European Commission, DG-Reform)
