

RECOVERY, INCLUSIVENESS, SUSTAINABILITY

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RECOVERY

ECONOMY

COORDINATION

ORGANIZATION

VARIETY

EQUALITY

RESPONSIBILITY

YOUTH

Measure 1

Employment Support

About the newsletter

The newsletter “Recovery, Inclusiveness, Sustainability” is a publication of the Institute for Development Policy - INDEP, through which detailed information about the Economic Recovery Package will be provided to the citizens of the Republic of Kosovo. The measures included in this package are intended to alleviate the problems and damage caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

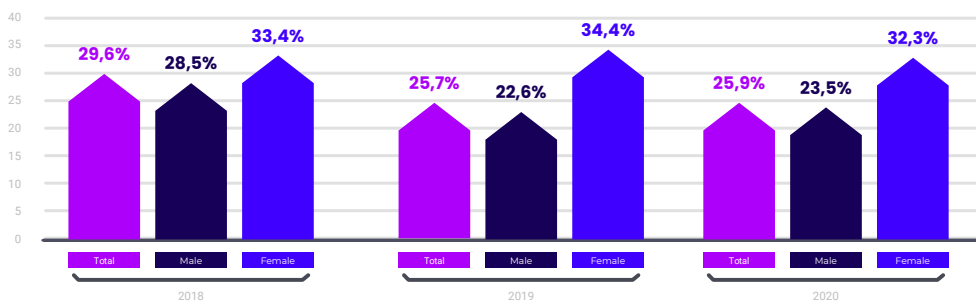
This newsletter “Recovery, Inclusiveness, Sustainability” is realized within the project “Recovery4Sustainability” supported by the Balkan Trust for Democracy (BTD) and USAID.

The second edition of the newsletter includes concrete information about the first measure of the Economic Revival Package, called Employment Support. In total, this measure has allocated 50 million Euros, which are divided into seven sub-measures. Through this newsletter, it is intended to inform the citizens in more detail, and in particular the citizens/beneficiaries of this measure.

→ Sub-measures of the Economic Revival Package

As in the rest of the world, also in the Republic of Kosovo, the COVID-19 pandemic caused damage that will take a longer time to repair. Public health was endangered, simultaneously with the possibility of the loss of jobs by the citizens, and some of them lost it. All of these difficulties and problems that were caused as a result of the pandemic, are already being addressed and will continue to be addressed in the future.

According to the Kosovo Agency of Statistics¹, 28.4% of the population who are under the working age were employed during 2020.² In previous years, respectively 2018 and 2019, the employment rate was 28.8% and 30.1%. Unemployment rate for 2020 would be even higher, if many citizens were not registered as employed, who worked in the informal economy, but due to benefiting from the measures of the first aid package from the Government of the Republic of Kosovo, they were registered as employees. As a sector severely affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, the first measure of the Economic Recovery Package is dedicated to citizens for employment support.



¹ Agjensia e Statistikave të Kosovës, ASK, accessible in <https://ask.rks-gov.net/>

² Agjensia e Statistikave të Kosovës, ASK, Anketa e Fuqisë Punëtore 2020, accessible in <https://ask.rks-gov.net/media/6125/anketa-e-fuqis%C3%AB-pun%C3%ABtore-afp-2020.pdf>

The first measure called Employment Support is the first priority of the Government of the Republic of Kosovo, and **50 million Euros** have been allocated in support of it.³ In total, this measure includes seven points or sub-measures, which according to the category will allocate the amounts of money for the injured citizens. The seven sub-measures of the first measure of the Economic Recovery Package are:

1. Return to work of those who lost their jobs during the pandemic



2. Support for formalized employees



3. Supporting the employment of women



4. Guaranteed employment scheme for young people



5. IT training and employment



6. Support the employment of people with special needs



7. Craft grant scheme



³ Ministria e Financave, Pakoja e Ringjalljes Ekonomike, Masa 1, accessible in <https://mf.rks-gov.net/desk/inc/media/7EB4F774-43C5-4471-9942-09197BC03E4F.pdf>

SUB-MEASURE 1.1

RETURN TO WORK OF THOSE WHO LOST THEIR JOBS DURING THE PANDEMIC

Out of 50, **10 million Euros** have been allocated for the first sub-measure of the first measure. All citizens who lost their jobs during the period March 2020 - April 2021 as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic will be able to benefit from the assistance of this sub-measure. Also included to this is the assistance for each re-employed, where the salary will be subsidized for 3 months in the amount of 170 euros per month. This sub-measure has already started the implementation and verification if a jobseeker qualifies, can be done through the ATK website at the link: <https://apps.atk-ks.org/Subvencionim>. The qualification condition is that the jobseeker is employed in the period December 2019 - February 2020, and unemployed in the period April 2021 - June 2021

SUB-MEASURE 1.2.

SUPPORT FOR FORMALIZED EMPLOYEES

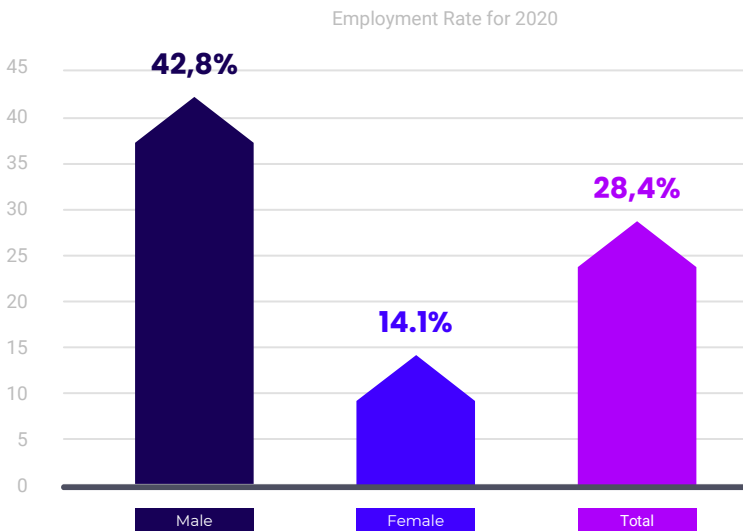
Support for formalized employees or the second sub-measure of the first measure, amounts **10 million Euros**. These funds are allocated or dedicated to citizens who are newly employed, and who have not been employed in the last three months, and who declare to ATK from the tax period July 2021.

The condition for benefiting from this sub-measure is that the employee **DOES NOT FIGURE** as registered in the tax period June 2021 and earlier.

This beneficiary category will be paid pension contributions in the amount of 10% of gross salary for up to 12 consecutive months, until June 2022.

SUB-MEASURE 1.3. SUPPORTING THE EMPLOYMENT OF WOMEN

According to the publication Labor Force Survey 2020, the Kosovo Agency of Statistics revealed that in our country, from the total percentage of 28.4% who are employed, the highest rate of employees falls under the category of men, where 42.8% of men of working age were employed compared to 14.1% of women.⁴



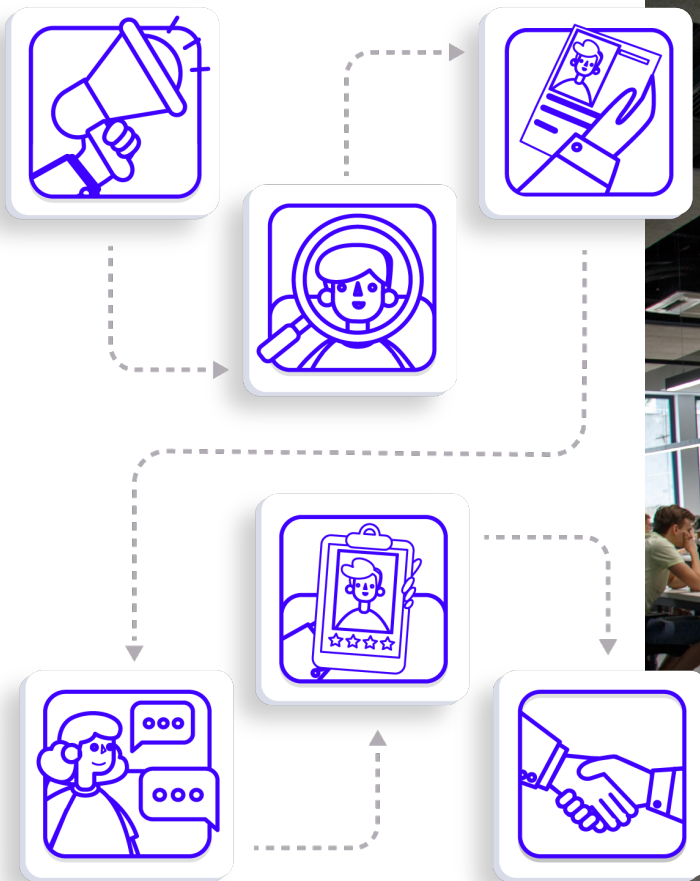
Such a percentage is quite worrying, given that half of the population is made up of this gender, and as a result, it has been seen as reasonable to include in the Economic Revival Package the aid which is intended for women. In total, this sub-measure has allocated **5 million Euros**.

This sub-measure provides for a salary subsidy of 50%, MAXIMUM 170 EURO, for the first three months for all women employed from the tax period July 2021.

⁴ Agjensia e Statistikave të Kosovës, ASK, Anketa e Fuqisë Punëtore 2020, accessible in <https://ask.rks-gov.net/media/6125/anketa-e-fuqis%C3%AB-pun%C3%ABtore-afp-2020.pdf>

SUB-MEASURE 1.4. GUARANTEED EMPLOYMENT SCHEME FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

The fourth sub-measure, called the Guaranteed Employment Scheme for young people, is part of the Economic Recovery Package with a dedicated amount of **10 million Euros**. In the Republic of Kosovo, even before the onset of the pandemic, young people aged 18-24 have had difficulty finding employment, and the COVID-19 pandemic has only made this process more difficult. According to the Kosovo Agency of Statistics, the unemployment rate for the 15-24 age group is 49.4%. Such a figure is quite alarming, so through this point, employment will be enabled or guaranteed for these age groups, where every young person will be guaranteed the first job, subsidized by the state at the level of the minimum wage.



SUB-MEASURE 1.5. IT TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT

IT (Information Technology) training and employment is the fifth sub-measure of the first measure of the Economic Recovery Package. As a field with great perspective, and with a future which will depend a lot on this branch, such a sub-measure has been integrated, which will help citizens to be accommodated in jobs. This will be done through vouchers through which IT courses will be attended, or internships. As for the citizens who complete the courses offered, they will be offered employment assistance for the first three months. In total this sub-measure has allocated **5 million Euros**.



SUB-MEASURE 1.6. SUPPORT THE EMPLOYMENT OF PEOPLE WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

To contribute to the creation of an equal society, and at the same time the advancement of persons with disabilities, the Government of the Republic of Kosovo has allocated the amount of **5 million Euros**. Through this sub-measure, all persons belonging to this category will be supported. Support will be provided through 50% salary coverage (up to 150 Euros per month), for the first six months.



SUB-MEASURE 1.7. CRAFT GRANT SCHEME

The last sub-measure of the first measure, called the Craft Grant Scheme, has dedicated **5 million Euros** for this category of workers. Assistance will be allocated through grants to those persons who will be certified with professional skills in crafts. The amount of grants provided for this category is up to 3,000 Euros. This scheme aims to reduce unemployment as well as push towards crafts training. These grants will cover equipment purchase and business formation.





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