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*School-to-Work Transition for Higher education students with disabilities
in Serbia, Bosnia & Herzegovina and Montenegro*



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Type of meeting:	Workshop with employers
Date:	20.10.2017.
Place:	NES Branch Office Mladenovac
Organizer:	NES
Facilitators:	Jelena Savić

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1. Participants

Employers, NGO Youth Disability Forum, representatives of the NES

2. Introduction

On 20th October 2017, National Employment Service of the Republic of Serbia has organized workshop with employers. The goal of the workshop was to present the activities and results of the project, as well as to inform employers with the benefits of employing persons with disabilities and to raise their awareness about this topic.

3. Short description of activities

Workshop for employers was held within the Job fair organized by NES Branch Office Mladenovac, as one of the NES's active labour market measures. At the beginning, Željko Selimović, Head of the Branch Office, welcomed the participants, and presented the aim of the workshop, which was to inform the participants about the activities and results achieved so far within the project, as well as to present the programs and measures of the NES for employment of PWD. He also invited the participants to take part in discussion, and to share their experiences regarding the benefits and obstacles in employment of PWDs.

The main focus of the presentation of the Trans2Work project was the Web Platform. Participants were able to learn about the web-based tool, and received the instructions on how to register including brief information about the questionnaire for employers. Representatives of the National Employment Service held the presentation on "How to employ persons with disability", and informed participants about legislation which provides framework for employment of persons with disabilities and the benefits which employers can receive in this process. Measures that support the employment of PWDs, such as organization of job fairs for PWDs, preparation for the employment through the vocational education programs, counseling and support for the integration of PWDs at the workplace and financial support measures. It was stressed that the plans of the NES for the forthcoming period are further development of the concept of promotion of the employment programs for people with disabilities, through the improvement of capacities of the employment officers, as well as by developing and improving cooperation with other relevant labor market actors in order to undertake joint activities on promotion of these programs in order to break the prejudices about people with disabilities, strengthening social responsibility and motivating employers to hire them.

With that regard, NGO Youth Disability Forum also took part in this workshop, as a long-time associate of the NES in the field of PWD employment. The attendees learned about the PWD Employment Program implemented by this organization for as much as 8 years, which comprises two components – Program for PWD and Program for Employers, as well as with the corporate social responsibility program.

At the end of the workshop, employers were given an opportunity to share their experience, to express needs and give recommendations for the future improvement. Most of them already had experience in employment of PWDs, where they noted that they were very satisfied with their workforce contrary to the general opinion about them. Also, they showed great interest in tools created within the project.

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4. Next activity

Next activity will be the promotional activity within the Job fair for the persons with disability including the active job search workshop in November 2017.

5. Photos

