

FACTSHEET

Making the Labour Market Work for Young People in Albania

RisiAlbania is a youth employment project that focuses on achieving systemic changes in the Albanian labour market in order to improve access to employment and income opportunities for young women and men.



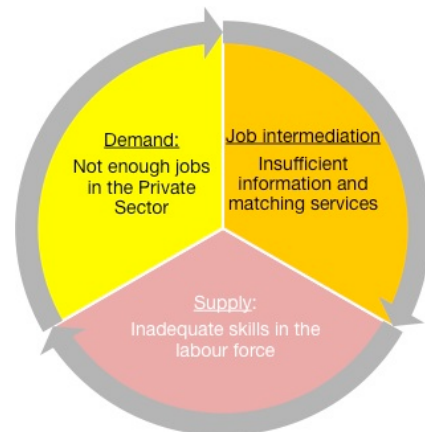
The Context

Although the economy continued to grow with 1% in 2013, unemployment remains a serious challenge in Albania. The official youth unemployment figure revolves at 21.5%, the rate for underemployment is markedly high (46% of employed youth work unpaid jobs) and young women in particular experience many difficulties participating in the labour market – the employment gap between women and men reached 20% in 2013.

So what are the main causes for widespread youth unemployment?

1. Business services are not effective enough to generate sufficient demand for labour
2. National employment services and private providers need to further improve their capacities to provide high quality job intermediation services such as career counseling and labour market information
3. Skills of the labour force need improvement, as they do not meet the private sector demands

Youth employment: a national priority



The Project

In order to achieve the project objective of improving access to employment and income opportunities for young people, RisiAlbania will focus on two major intervention areas:

Job creation in the private sector	Job intermediation
• Businesses in selected sectors develop and create more jobs for young people	• More young people enter the job market through effective job intermediation
• More business service providers deliver adequate advisory, training and consulting services • Enhanced financial service providers and Foreign Direct Investment offer better access to finance in the selected sectors • Skills providers work with businesses to equip young people with adequate skills • Private sector advocates for policy and regulatory changes to improve business sector environments	• Enhanced media regularly provides better, updated and gender-balanced labour market information • Public and private job matching services for young women and men is improved • Increased public debate between civil society, private sector and government leads to improved and gender-responsive education and youth labour market policies and practices



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Our Goal for 2017

- 11,000 young women and men are employed in the three selected subsectors of which at least 50% are women
- 100,000 young people (50% women) have access to job opportunities through labour market information, matching services & better policies
- At least 1,000 current or prospective employees improve their skills

Promising sectors for youth-employment

RisiAlbania identified sectors with great potential to create employment for the youth: **Agro-processing, Tourism, ICT and Garments & Footwear**. These growth sectors are very diverse and thus provide opportunities for different segments of the society, acknowledging diversity in terms of skills levels, rural outreach and gender.



Achieving sustainable systemic change using the M4P approach

The project will follow the “Making Markets work for the Poor” (M4P) framework focusing on addressing current market failures and achieving systemic change by developing supporting services and functions within the youth labour market.

The approach to employment is comprehensive and innovative. It will not intervene directly in development services nor take a supply-driven approach. Instead it adopts an integrated and participatory approach to employment development by stimulating existing market players to take on a more proactive role in the market system. The local partners include:

- Business service providers,
- Civil society and youth organisations,
- Media outlets and associations,
- Private businesses in selected sectors,
- Job matching providers and the National Employment Services (NES) and
- Ministry of Social Welfare and Youth, private training providers and the formal education system

Financing agency Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)	Duration November 2013 – October 2017
Implementing partners HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation and Partners Albania	Project value Implementation: CHF 4,600,000
Country Albania	Target group Young women and men, ranging in age from 15 to 29: unskilled or students, job-seekers or young employees seeking career-upgrade