
Press release

Western Balkans, 01 June 2021

German Government continues supporting the economic empowerment of the Western Balkans

German non-governmental organisation Help – Hilfe zur Selbsthilfe (missions to Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Montenegro, Serbia) is informing the public on the release of the 3.35 million Euros worth German-supported programme “Socio-economic empowerment of the Western Balkans”

Western Balkans, 01 May 2021 – The German non-governmental organisation Help – Hilfe zur Selbsthilfe is implementing a **3,35 million Euros**, German-supported programme “**Socio-economic empowerment of the Western Balkans**” to enhance the socio-economic stability of the region in 2021 until the end of December 2022.

The programme objective is to create mechanisms and networks for the empowerment of marginalised groups including COVID-19 recovery measures and thus facilitate their inclusion and social prosperity.

The focus of the activities, in all Western Balkans countries, is on the job-creation through the establishment of new businesses and provision of support to the existing ones affected by the COVID-19. The assistance will be provided to socially vulnerable groups, women, youth, people with disabilities, prisoners, and local communities, through economic empowerment involving the building of personal and professional skills.

By the end of the project, it is expected that in the Western Balkans, Help will have supported at least **470** small scale businesses. At least **900** people will have increased their personal and professional skills. The penitentiary support to **18** prisons and at least **15** local initiatives completed, and a social platform fully operational on the regional level.

Timo Stegelmann, Help Deputy Managing Director

“Following the principle of “Help towards self-reliance”, Help supports the efforts of low-income families, women, youth, prisoners, and former prisoners, people with disabilities to improve their living conditions through their own means and for the long-term to strengthen the resilience of communities.”

Kosovo

Shajpe Breznica, Country Director: *“In Kosovo, Help will continue its effort in empowering micro-businesses with in-kind grants and provide business and professional training to increase their capacities as well as to facilitate labour market access. Kosovo Correctional Services and Kosovo Probation Services will be supported within the resocialization component. As for the local communities’ improvement, kindergartens in the capital will be supported to create a stimulating environment. In addition, previously established local structures will be utilized in synergetic action for a common good to produce and set up outdoor trash bins installed in the capital of Kosovo, Prishtina”.*

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More information on the project is available at/via:

www.help-kosovo.org

www.facebook.com/helpkosovo

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