

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING ON COOPERATION RELATED TO FREE ACCESS TO THE LABOUR MARKET IN THE WESTERN BALKANS

We, the Western Balkan participants referred to collectively as “the contracting parties” and individually “the contracting party”

EXPRESSING willingness for strengthening regional cooperation and mutual understanding, with the aim of contributing to economic development and increase of economic growth, investments and employment in the Western Balkans,

CONSIDERING the importance of the field of movement of workers, with the aim of ensuring progress and economic prosperity,

BEARING IN MIND the Joint Declaration signed in Novi Sad on 10 October 2019, which is based on the objective to implement in the Western Balkans the four key freedoms of the EU single market,

RECOGNIZING the Joint Declaration of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Albania, the Prime Minister of the Republic of North Macedonia and the President of the Republic of Serbia adopted at the Western Balkans Summit held in Ohrid on 10 November 2019,

REAFFIRMING the Joint Declaration of the Prime Minister of Albania, the Prime Minister of the Republic of North Macedonia, and the President of the Republic of Serbia adopted at the Western Balkans Summit in Tirana on 21 December 2019,

EMPHASIZING their commitment to implementing EU acquis in the area of free movement of workers and preparing for closer integration in the EU single market,

REAFFIRMING their commitment to international standards with respect to the principles of non-discrimination in the policy area that is subject of this Memorandum

SEEKING to deepen their existing cooperation, building upon their bilateral agreements, related to the policy area that is subject of this Memorandum.

NOTING that no provision of this Memorandum may be interpreted as to exempt the Contracting Parties from their respective rights and obligations under existing treaties, including their existing regional and bilateral trade agreements.

Hereby agree as follows:

Article 1

The Contracting Parties agree they shall simplify procedures with the aim to guarantee equal access to the labour market in the contracting Party.

Harmonization of laws will be done if there is a need in any of the contracting parties.

Article 2

- (1) With this MoU the contracting parties express their will to facilitate the movement of people in order to provide easier and freer access to the labor market aiming at removing work permits and simplifying procedures regarding temporary resident permit.

(2) The parties agree on the basis of this memorandum to find modalities for registration and regulation of temporary stay, for people who will get free access to the labor market, without the need for work permits or similar authorization.

In accordance with the commitments from the memorandum, the parties agree to use, develop or adjust appropriate systems for the implementation of the objectives of the memorandum, within 6 months after the signing of the MoU.

COORDINATION

Article 3

The Parties will strengthen cooperation and communication among competent authorities responsible for issues under this MoU. Representatives of the competent authorities will meet regularly and report every six months to the governments. The first meeting will be held no later than 2 months from the date of signing.

TRANSITIONAL AND FINAL PROVISIONS

Article 4

The Contracting Parties agree that agreement shall be concluded with the aim to prescribe the detailed procedures and obligations related to the access to the labour market of the Contracting Parties.

Article 5

This MoU may be amended only with the consent of all Contracting Parties subject to the same procedure which was necessary to conclude this Memorandum.

Article 6

The Contracting Parties agree that any disputes arising from the implementation of this MoU shall be resolved through direct consultation.

Article 7

This MoU shall enter into force upon signature.

Article 8

If one Contracting Party withdraw from this MoU, it shall cease to be effective only for that Contracting Party within 30 days from the date of delivery of the notification thereof.

Done at _____ on _____ 2021, in three originals in English, Albanian, Macedonian and Serbian languages, all texts being equally authentic.

In case of diverging interpretations, the English text shall prevail.

Aleksandar Vučić

President of the
Republic of Serbia

Zoran Zaev

President of the Government of the
Republic of
North Macedonia

Edi Rama

For the Council of
Ministers of the
Republic of Albania
