

SWOT Analysis

The first step of the project was the analysis of the industry's strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats (SWOT) in the 6 project countries. The studies are based on interviews and desk research of available material.

The SWOT analyses for Bulgaria, Croatia, Macedonia, Montenegro, Romania and Serbia are available at:

<https://news.industriall-europe.eu/p/ip-in-se-europe>



11 RECOMMENDATIONS

For setting up an authentic Industrial Policy in South-East Europe



Since 2016, industriAll Europe and EFFAT have jointly cooperated in a project on industrial policy in south-east Europe. The purpose was to develop an industrial policy platform at national and regional level in Bulgaria, Croatia, Macedonia, Montenegro, Romania and Serbia that allows the trade unions in Europe to discuss policy proposals with the government and employers' organisations to reinforce the industrial strength in the country and region.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR AN AUTHENTIC INDUSTRIAL POLICY IN SOUTH-EASTERN EUROPE

1. Establish an authentic industrial policy

Industrial policy should be based on consensus between the government and social partners on a national and sectoral level and it should be backed up with appropriate resources, responsibilities and mechanisms.

2. Social Dialogue is key to a well targeted industrial policy

The industrial relations system needs to be improved for effective and functioning social dialogue. The implementation of a sustainable industrial policy is a shared responsibility of the governments in consultation with social partners.

3. Move to high value-added industry and support wage increase

Industrial policy needs to aim at increasing competitiveness, productivity and innovation and connecting economic performance and growth to policies oriented at income increase.

4. Better connect smart specialisation and real economy challenges

New segments of the industry need to be better connected with more traditional sectors while anticipating impacts on jobs and skills.

5. Skills development

Industrial policy must be supported by policies addressing the skills gap including the development of the dual apprenticeship, lifelong learning and continuous vocational training in companies. Governments should encourage and support young people to pursue their career in their countries of origin to avoid losing human capital.

6. Tackling the informal economy

Efforts to limit the informal economy need to be stepped up. SEE countries should engage in better protection of labour rights, take measures to combat envelope wages and consider tax pressure as a means to combat the informal economy.

7. Better use of EU funds for the development of technologies, skills and infrastructure

Improve the programming, targeting, use and absorption of EU funds for technological modernisation, human capital and infrastructure and link it with the industrial policy objectives.

8. Development of supportive and inclusive administration and regulative framework

Actions should be stepped up to optimise the legal and administrative system, the move towards more transparent regulative framework and enforcement of labour and collective bargaining rights.

9. Preservation of the environment and sustainable industrial development

Develop a long-term strategy to comply with the EU environment legislation and a long-term anticipation capacity to address possible negative impacts on jobs.

10. Governance of companies with public participation

Reform of the state-owned structure to sustainable competitive companies in order to create the right framework conditions for state-owned companies to thrive.

11. Improving infrastructure

Promote and support investment in infrastructure, including roads, railways and energy supply to ensure the reliability of industries and the logistics of goods, taking into account the regional co-operation objectives and the better connectivity among SEE countries.

This project promotes the trade union involvement and capacity to play a role in the industrial policy debates and political choices through social dialogue. Outcomes and recommendations can be consulted at:
<https://news.industriall-europe.eu/p/ip-in-se-europe>