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Title of South-South and triangular cooperation (SSTC) good practice: Peer-to-peer mechanisms and triangular cooperation elevated the employment dimensions of Just Transition discussions in CEE

Countries involved (please add more than one country): Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, Kosovo, Montenegro, North Macedonia, with participation of EU member States

South-South Objective (s)	The initiative intended to strengthen the employment dimension of just transition debates in Western Balkan non-EU countries. It aimed to support ministries in charge of labour, social partners, and other institutions in playing a stronger role in the NDC frameworks and climate policy negotiations, so that job creation, social protection, and labour market policies can be integrated into just transition strategies.
South-South Cooperation objectives	The cooperation brought together ministries, employers' and workers' organizations, public employment services, SMEs, statistical offices, and value chain actors from the Western Balkans economies. Peer learning happened especially between North Macedonia, Montenegro, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Serbia. Triangular cooperation was developed with EU institutions and social partner organizations from the EU.
Effectiveness of the South-South / peer learning methodological approach	The methodology relied on small peer-to-peer working groups for the formulation of position papers, research and analysis, joint workshops, and regional learning events. Knowledge-sharing on green jobs definitions, national diagnostics, and employment implications of climate policies created a shared understanding. Peer review and validation processes made the approach participatory, while triangular exchanges with EU actors enriched the discussions, by highlighting good practices and potential stumbling blocks with respect to the accession process.
Innovation	The initiative introduced employment-focused diagnostics and other assessments and reviews to strengthen the position of social partners and ministries in charge of labour in just transition debates, NDC frameworks, and climate policy negotiations. These debates were often dominated only by environmental perspectives. Empowered with new evidence and a better understanding of the linkages between decent work and climate policies, ministries in charge of labour and social partners in North Macedonia and Montenegro were invited to join the existing working groups, led by ministries in charge of environment and energy, with responsibility for NDC and climate negotiations. Additionally, the initiative innovated by mapping the E-waste sector in selected countries. These sectoral pilots demonstrated how just transition policies could be linked with value chains and SME support.
South-South Sustainability	Sustainability was ensured by anchoring the practice within EU accession processes (such as in Bosnia and Herzegovina) and joint programmes with other entities, such as GIZ, in North Macedonia and Montenegro. Capacity building of social partners and ministries in charge of labour enables their active participation in the working groups established by the ministries of energy and environment, allowing the practice to continue beyond the funding period.
South-South Adaptability	The good practice could be extended to other EU accession countries or regions facing similar gaps in employment-oriented climate strategies. The necessary conditions included functioning social dialogue mechanisms, institutional readiness to engage in climate negotiations, and regional value chain cooperation (as with E-waste). The triangular modality with EU partners made it adaptable to other regions with strong EU trade linkages.

South-South Results	• Created peer-learning mechanisms among Western Balkan economies and triangular cooperation with EU member States. • Piloted green employment diagnostics. • Strengthened the role of social partners in climate negotiations, including with regard to the NDC framework. • Mapped E-waste value chains in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Serbia, laying foundations for regional job-creating partnerships. • Enabled cross-country learning and set up a nucleus for a sub-regional network of practitioners on Just Transition.
Contact details	Multilateral Partnerships and Development Cooperation Department (PARTNERSHIPS) – partnerships@ilo.org – www.ilo.org/partnerships ILO DWT/CO-Budapest - https://www.ilo.org/regions-and-countries/europe-and-central-asia/ilo-office-central-and-eastern-europe A just transition that works for business is up for discussion in the Western Balkans International Labour Organization
Funding Sources Explain the origin of funds	SSTC-RBTC funds, which catalyzed additional development cooperation funding.
Materials and Web-links.	Photo @ILO: Peer Learning Activity led by ILO Budapest 