



Stability Pact's role:

- Creation of regional structures to develop and implement regional policies for trade, investment and employment - Trade Working Group, Investment Compact for SEE and Permanent High Level Group on Employment
- Development and implementation of a regional trade liberalisation and facilitation policy including conclusion of free trade agreements and a programme to reduce and eliminate non-tariff barriers to trade
- Instigation and monitoring of regional reform strategies to improve the climate for foreign direct investment and SME development
- Implementation of joint promotional programmes for SEE countries in key target markets
- Development of mechanisms to improve dialogue between governments and private sector e.g. Foreign Investors Councils
- Generation of political, technical and financial support for comprehensive review and upgrading of employment policies in the region and develop links among social partners and between social partners and government
- Promote provision of financial facilities to stimulate enterprise development and facilitate trade
- Encourage assessment and application of information technology to expedite economic development

Much needed reforms must be underpinned by adequate social policies if they are to result in sustainable economic growth. The development of suitable social policies in South Eastern Europe faces numerous challenges including the economic transition process and the impact of years of conflict.

Under the Stability Pact's Initiative for Social Cohesion, SEE countries with the support of international donors have developed regional networks to advance policy development in several important areas. These include health policy (communicable diseases, blood products, mental health), employment policy, social protection (pension benefits) and social dialogue.



Working Table II - Economy Housing & Urban Management

Affordable housing and sustainable urban development are important catalysts for socio-economic development in South Eastern Europe. Hence the identification and implementation of appropriate social housing and planning policies is of concern to all governments in the region.

Following the signing of the Vienna Declaration on Informal Settlements, the Stability Pact's Housing and Urban Management Initiative (HUMI) has supported several governments in SEE to develop strategies to implement their commitments. HUMI is also working closely with UN-HABITAT to develop a regional programme to improve capacity in SEE to formulate and introduce appropriate housing policies and programmes.

Overview 2005/2006

"The overall objective of Working Table II is to stimulate economic growth and employment in South Eastern Europe through the development and implementation of regional strategies in infrastructure, trade and investment. An important element of this objective is to ensure that economic reforms are underpinned by adequate social policies."

