

Platform Newsletter

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June 2023



Welcome to the June 2023 edition of the European Labour Authority (ELA)'s biannual newsletter for the European Platform tackling undeclared work. This edition delves into teleworking and the regulations surrounding undeclared work and reveals the extent and working conditions of teleworking in EU Member States. This newsletter features two new YouTube videos showing promising practices tackling undeclared work.

We are delighted to announce the re-election of Bart Stalpaert (SIOD – Belgium) as Platform Co-chair. Furthermore, the newsletter highlights the outcomes of joint session of the Platform and ELA's Working Group on Inspections. It also features the European Labour Authority's initiatives to address undeclared work among displaced persons and refugees from Ukraine.

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Teleworking and regulations to prevent undeclared work

The world is changing at an unprecedented pace, and one of the significant shifts that we have seen in recent years is the rise of teleworking (remote working or working at home). While it has brought many benefits to workers and employers, it also poses new challenges, such as the potential risk of undeclared work.

To address this issue, the 14th plenary meeting of the European Platform tackling undeclared work, which was hosted at ELA's premises in Bratislava on 28-29 March 2023, explored and deepened the understanding of emerging trends in teleworking, risks for undeclared work, and related regulatory efforts.

The event aimed to identify forms of teleworking where the potential risk of undeclared work is emerging, strategies to mitigate this risk, and share good examples of prevention and deterrence activities.

The thematic day was divided into different sessions, including:

- An exploration of the extent of teleworking in EU member states;
- Working conditions of teleworkers;
- The EU regulatory context.

Additionally, dedicated workshops were held to discuss national regulatory responses to teleworking as a framework for preventing undeclared work and the role of social partners in tackling undeclared work in telework.

While current evidence on this topic is limited, the thematic day of the plenary meeting highlighted the importance of the topic to platform members and observers in identifying the state of the art, challenges, and likelihood of the emergence of undeclared work while working remotely. The ultimate objective is to raise awareness and deepen the understanding of measures already taken or proposed to ensure that telework is fully declared. A draft full report of the thematic day has been shared with the Platform members for their comments.

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Stay up to date with the latest Platform news

Platform co-chair re-elected for another term!



Dariusz Górski (Co-chair), Pedro Assares (ELA), Bart Stalpaert (Co-chair) and Krzysztof Bandasz (ELA) at the 14th Platform Plenary Meeting (29 March 2023)

We are pleased to announce that the Platform Co-chair, Bart Stalpaert (SIOD – Belgium), has been re-elected by the members and observers of the Platform to continue his outstanding work as Co-chair.

Bart has been an integral part of the Platform since he was first involved, and we are grateful for his dedication and commitment. He has made a significant impact on the Platform, contributing high-quality interventions, and fostering strong connections within the community. The Platform looks forward to continuing this success under Bart's Co-chairmanship for another two years, until July 2025.

“Together, we have achieved many positive outcomes on the Platform, including engaging studies and thought-provoking discussions on important topics. I always say the same thing, it is about trust and working together, and I truly believe that the Platform is a model for that” – Bart Stalpaert, Belgium, Co-Chair of the Platform

New videos showcase inspiring ideas tackling undeclared work

ELA is excited to announce the launch of two new videos on our YouTube channel focused on tackling undeclared work in the EU:

- The first video, '[Fighting Undeclared Work: A Holistic Approach](#)' (available in English with EU language subtitles), highlights ELA's approach to converting undeclared work into declared work.
- The second video, '[Inspiring Practices Tackling Undeclared Work](#)' (available separately in EU languages), features successful initiatives and innovative approaches from Member States tackling undeclared work.



We invite you to join us in our efforts to tackle undeclared work by watching and sharing these videos with your colleagues, friends, and family.

Watch on [YouTube channel](#), [LinkedIn](#), [Twitter](#) or [Facebook](#).

A joint session of the Platform and the Working Group on inspections - Insights on Posting of Workers Directives

A joint session held at the March plenary meeting provided a great opportunity for both groups to come together to discuss mutually interesting topics. During the session, a presentation was given on the outcomes of a forthcoming study that supports the monitoring of the Posting of Workers' Directives. The presentation highlighted key issues that are of great importance for both the Platform and the Working Group on inspections.

European Labour Authority addresses undeclared work among displaced persons and refugees from Ukraine

ELA hosted the third meeting of the Platform subgroup on tackling undeclared work among displaced persons/refugees from Ukraine on 9 March 2023. The meeting discussed the vulnerabilities and risks linked to undeclared work and labour exploitation faced by refugees in the European labour market. Presentations covered topics such as initiatives to support Ukraine, the role of non-governmental organisations in supporting the refugees and their decent employment, and an update on the [EU Talent Pool Pilot Project in EURES](#).

The roundtable discussion included Member States representatives and social partners who shared national data, experiences from measures taken, and information on current challenges faced when tackling undeclared work among refugees.

The principal findings from the online survey conducted by the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) were also presented, which highlighted work-related problems faced by respondents, such as long working hours, underpayment, and working without a contract. Next steps formulated during the meeting included providing more information to refugees about the [Temporary Protection Directive](#), simplifying complaint mechanisms, and tackling fake job offers.

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Platform Subgroup explores how social/labour ID cards can help combat undeclared work

On 26 April, ELA hosted a subgroup meeting in Bratislava on the topic of evaluating social /labour ID cards as a tool for tackling undeclared work, including in subcontracting chains. The subgroup is expected to produce a short report that reviews different characteristics of social/labour ID cards used in Platform members' countries, documents experiences and challenges faced in developing, implementing, and monitoring social/labour ID cards, identify what works and what does not, collects examples of good practice, and suggests possible next steps. An output paper of the meeting is forthcoming and will be published in the Platform's [virtual library](#).

The economic and social importance of the RMI sector

The household repair, maintenance, and improvements (RMI) sector in the EU has received less attention from policymakers despite its significant economic and social importance. The RMI sector is worth around €655 billion or 4.4% of the EU's GDP and employs approximately 18 million people, encompassing a wide range of services related to the upkeep and improvement of residential properties, including energy-efficient improvements.

The Platform Seminar on tackling undeclared work in the construction sector including RMI, held in Bratislava, on 16 May 2023 provided an opportunity for stakeholders to exchange good practices and address issues related to undeclared work in the sector. A learning resource paper highlighting the outcomes of the meeting will be published in the Platform's [virtual library](#).

Latest and upcoming publications

LATEST PUBLICATIONS

- [Learning resource paper – Tackling undeclared work in supply chains](#) (PDF, 470 KB)
- [Learning resource paper tackling under declared employment through innovative approaches](#) (PDF, 370 KB)
- [Webinar report innovative approaches to tackle undeclared work in the road transport sector](#) (PDF, 258 KB)
- [Output paper from the subgroup on alert mechanisms to identify undeclared work at an early stage](#) (PDF, 331 KB)
- [Event report - Challenges and solutions in preventing, detecting and proving undeclared work in new forms of work](#) (PDF, 304 KB)
- [Study report on the extent of undeclared work in the European Union](#) (PDF, 1051 KB)
- [Developing methodology and Key Performance Indicators \(KPIs\) measuring the effectiveness of labour inspectorates](#) (PDF, 948 KB)
- [Study report on the extent of dependent self-employment in the European Union](#) (PDF, 2290 KB)
- [Practitioners' toolkit on effective penalty measures for tackling undeclared work, including through cost effective administrative actions](#) (PDF, 2600 KB)

FORTHCOMING PUBLICATIONS

- Updates to 27 Member States' country factsheets on undeclared work
- Learning resource paper from the Platform seminar: Tackling undeclared work in the construction sector including RMI
- Output paper: Subgroup on evaluating social/labour ID cards as a tool for tackling undeclared work, including in subcontracting chains
- Learning resource paper from the thematic review workshop: E-services: digital solutions to facilitate declared work
- Study on range of e-services to facilitate declared work
- Study on means and instruments used as a proof of undeclared work

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Inspiring practices from Platform members



[Austria - ÖQZ 24 care and quality certificate for placement agencies](#) (PDF, 198 KB)



[Cyprus - Low threshold whistleblower telephone hotline](#) (PDF, 201 KB)



[Finland - Work Help Finland - Mobile Application](#) (PDF, 147 KB)



[Greece - New framework for undeclared work fines](#) (PDF, 123 KB)



[Lithuania - Transparent Worker Identification \(QR\) Code](#) (PDF, 204 KB)



[Italy - Cooperation agreement with France on transnational posting](#) (PDF, 158 KB)



[Italy - Awareness campaigns on the advantages of regular employment relationships](#) (PDF, 161 KB)



[Spain - Law on subcontracting in the construction sector \(LSCS\)](#) (PDF, 133 KB)



[Spain - New regulatory and automated scheme of sanctions to tackle undeclared work](#) (PDF, 125 KB)



[Spain - Undeclared work in personal and household services \(PHS\) - Investigation Campaign](#) (PDF, 163 KB)



[France, Poland, Romania, Spain - National training centres for labour inspectors](#) (PDF, 244 KB)

Deadline approaching: Submit your application letter by October 15, 2023, to host a Mutual Assistance Projects in 2023

ELA has announced the Call for Applications for Mutual Assistance Projects (MAPs) to address undeclared work. This initiative aligns with the future activities proposed by the European Platform tackling undeclared work. The purpose of the call is to invite members of the Platform to participate in MAPs. By hosting MAPs, countries can showcase successful strategies and innovative approaches they have implemented to combat undeclared work.

Interested countries can submit an application letter to host a MAP in 2023, with the deadline set for October 15, 2023. Applications will be processed on a 'first come, first served' basis. It is encouraged for Member States to collaborate with their national liaison officers (NLOs) at ELA, who can provide support during MAP preparations and facilitate communication between ELA and the Member States involved.

Please email your application letter to the Platform Secretariat at undeclared-work@ela.europa.eu.

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Upcoming events - Dates for the diary

- **21-22 June 2023, Malta:** Thematic Review Workshop on E-services: digital solutions to facilitate declared work
- **6 July 2023 from 10.00 to 11.30 CEST, online:** Webinar - Potential implications of the cost-of-living crisis on the risk of undeclared work
- **2nd half of September, online:** **Platform subgroup meeting on tackling undeclared work among displaced persons / refugees from Ukraine**
- **28-29 November 2023:** Platform plenary meeting
- **Q4 2023 (date/location TBC):** Thematic Review Workshop on Means and instruments used as a proof of undeclared work

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Keep in touch

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