



November 2019

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First ever Platform campaign takes shape



Now it's official: the European Platform tackling undeclared work will launch its first awareness campaign in 2020!

At the Platform's plenary meeting held on 24-25 October 2019, the Platform endorsed the concept for a European campaign for declared work. #EU4FairWork focuses on raising awareness about the benefits of declared work. Its purpose is to sensitise companies about the benefits of and their obligations to declare work, as well as inform workers about their rights and how to report undeclared work.

An EU-wide social media campaign will run from March to June 2020, with a Week of Action taking place from 16-20 March. Platform members and observers will have the opportunity to organise activities during the Week of Action, as well as take advantage of capacity-building activities. These activities will run under the campaign slogans: *Earn. Declare. Benefit. and Fair work, fair play.*

Platform members and observers are invited to the upcoming campaign coordination seminar on the 10 December 2019, where they can share and further develop their own Week of Action activities to coincide with the EU social media campaign.

What's New

Data protection and exchange in tackling undeclared work

The first day of the plenary meeting (24 October) focused on the topic of data protection and exchange to support authorities to tackle undeclared work. Exchanging data at national or cross-border level can help enforcement authorities in

their investigations and inspections. For instance, Spain presented on how sharing databases among authorities can increase the effectiveness of risk assessments, and France showed how bilateral agreements as well as its regional structure supports effective data exchange processes.

Data sharing and exchange to tackle undeclared work is a highly complex and technical area. The General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) can also mean additional challenges for authorities to ensure the privacy of personal data as covered by the regulation. Platform members discussed a range of solutions to overcoming these challenges both in a national and cross-border context. These included sharing anonymised or 'pseudonymised' data (such as in Belgium), launching pilot projects to ensure a sound basis for future work (such as the Benelux pilot on matching databases which checked whether cross-border construction workers were registered correctly for social security) and, more generally, looking for opportunities to develop increased trust and understanding among authorities.

EU-level tools are available to support cross-border data exchange such as the Internal Market Information System (IMI) which can facilitate the exchange of information between authorities in cases related to fraudulent posting of workers. Longer term proposals for development in this area were presented by the leader of the Platform's working group on this topic. This included proposals for a specific module on undeclared work within the IMI System. Recommendations for follow-up will be submitted to the European Labour Authority (ELA).

The European Labour Authority starts its work



*Caption: Inauguration of the European Labour Authority.
Credit: European Commission's Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion.*

ELA's first management board meeting took place on 16-17 October 2019. This constituent meeting led to the adoption of different documents, including the rules of procedures and the vacancy notice of the executive Director position. A first discussion on the 2020 work programme also took place. The Platform will be integrated into ELA as a permanent working group by 2021 which will be chaired by an ELA representative - for the moment Platform activities will continue as planned. Jordi Curell, the Director for "Labour Mobility" in DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion and Chair of the Platform, is currently the interim executive director of ELA.

Find out more by visiting the ELA [website](#) or learn more by viewing the information [video](#).

Update from the October 2019 Plenary meeting

The second day of the plenary meeting highlighted the Platform's recent work on the state of play of cross-border joint and concerted inspections, which will be submitted to ELA for follow-up. The Platform's [study on cross-border cooperation](#) has now been published.

Look out for a new practical toolkit on joint and concerted inspections, which was presented by the Platform and will be published in the coming weeks. A toolkit on the future role and competence profile of labour inspectorates is also forthcoming.

The Platform heard some inspiring examples from Ireland, Bulgaria and Lithuania on their successful joint inspection activities, staff visits, and mutual assistance projects. 2020 will also see the publication (expected February 2020) of the Eurobarometer public opinion survey on undeclared work and the results will be reviewed for the benefit of the Platform.

Platform Work Programme: implementation and outlook

Looking ahead, the Platform's work programme for 2019-2020 has been updated to reflect recent developments including the launch of the ELA. A new working group will be established to prepare the Platform's next work programme 2021-2022 including in its transition to ELA. The work programme also reflects the launch of the Platform's communication campaign #EU4FairWork, and takes on board feedback from Platform members and observers.

Upcoming Platform seminars will examine how to tackle undeclared work in the aviation and HORECA sectors. Thematic review workshops in 2020 will take an in-depth look at how Platform members and observers implement cross-border sanctions and tackle fraudulent agency work. The March 2020 plenary meeting will focus on the modern challenges faced by Member States on the collaborative economy, new forms of work and bogus self-employment.

Two countries - Greece and Belgium - will be supported by mutual assistance projects in the Platform's new work programme.

See the updated work programme for 2019-2020 [here](#) (PDF, 824 KB)

Practices: national campaigns

Below we share an inspiring example on tackling undeclared work through a national campaign.

'Thank you for paying taxes'

- Estonia Tax and Customs Board

'Thank you for paying taxes' is an information campaign by Estonia's Tax and Customs Board. It is targeted primarily at employees, thanking them for paying their taxes and underlining that those funds are the reason that hospitals, schools, roads and pensions exist. It also raises the point that personal benefits from paying taxes (e.g. a mother's pension or son's school allowance) could be lost if there were no taxpayers.

Find out more by visiting the campaign website [here](#).



Source: Video from the Estonian "Thank you for paying taxes" campaign

Latest publications

Studies

[Cross-border actions tackling undeclared work](#) (PDF, 1.6 MB)

[Survey on key themes of work: Annual Platform survey 2019](#) (PDF, 1.1MB)

Event materials

[Learning resource paper from the thematic review workshop: Cross-border concerted and joint inspections](#) (PDF, 410 KB)

[Summary report from the follow-up visit of the thematic review workshop: Cross-border concerted and joint inspections](#) (PDF, 132 KB)

[Executive summary from the Platform seminar: Preventative approaches to tackle undeclared work, with a focus on tax rebates and notification letters](#) (PDF, 59 KB)

[Learning resource paper from the Platform seminar: Preventative approaches to tackle undeclared work, with a focus on tax rebates and notification letters](#) (PDF, 738 KB)

Inspiring practices

Belgium: Network Teams – specialised teams of labour inspectors with expertise in cross-border employment and the posting of workers

[Click here to view](#) (PDF, 144 KB)

Lithuania: Cherry letters

[Click here to view](#) (PDF, 140 KB)

Poland: Improving cooperation through coordinated cross-border activities with the Netherlands to prevent labour exploitation in the agriculture and transport sectors

[Click here to view](#) (PDF, 144 KB)

Romania: REVISAL – General record of employees

[Click here to view](#) (PDF, 140 KB)

Spain: Joint inspection visit with Romania of agricultural workers in the province of Albacete

[Click here to view](#) (PDF, 144 KB)

Sweden: Competence Supply Management

[Click here to view](#) (PDF, 127 KB)

More practices can be found on the Platform's virtual library [here](#)

Dates for the diary

10 December 2019

Campaign coordination seminar
(Brussels, Belgium)

16-20 March 2020

Campaign Week of Action
(Brussels, Belgium)

28-29 January 2020

Cross-border sanctions in the areas
of labour law, tax and social security
contributions
(Paris, France)

25-26 March 2020

8th plenary meeting
(Brussels, Belgium)

19 February 2020

Collaboration between competent
authorities to tackle undeclared work
in the air transport sector, with a
special focus on bogus self-
employment of aircrews
(Brussels, Belgium)

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