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Platform Newsletter



European Platform
tackling undeclared work



December 2022



TACKLING UNDECLARED WORK WITH EFFECTIVE MEASURES



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Welcome to the December 2022 edition of the twice-yearly newsletter for the European Platform tackling undeclared work (the 'Platform'). It has been an active time for the Platform with 17 events taking place since May including a seminar, thematic review workshops, sub-group meetings, a peer learning dialogue, a webinar and many staff visits.

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News from the
Platform



Latest
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practices



Dates for the
diary



**Measuring the effectiveness of policy measures to tackle
undeclared work**

Enforcement authorities: Conquering challenges and making a difference



The 13th plenary meeting of the Platform took place face-to-face for the first time since the pandemic. It was held at ELA's premises in Bratislava on 8-9 November. The meeting provided an opportunity for internal reflection on measuring the effectiveness of policy measures to tackle undeclared work. While challenges remain, the key outcomes of the meetings were that strategies to assess the effectiveness of policy measures must be designed with clear goals in mind and with political support to ensure dedicated resources.

Strengthening cooperation and the exchange of information between different government bodies is considered vital to filling data gaps. Transforming undeclared work into declared work could be a starting point when developing key performance indicators.

"We all agree that this is a key challenge for the Platform. KPIs can be a useful tool when deployed for the right reasons and with the right goals in mind. We agreed to start small and we will return to this discussion in the future." – Bart Stalpaert, Belgium, Co-Chair of the Platform

The power of the holistic approach

The holistic approach requires looking at all the factors that contribute to undeclared work and finding innovative solutions to measure the potential effectiveness of policy measures. Ideas like amnesties, receipts lotteries, threats of inspection/audit, and notification letters can help to ensure that employers do not take advantage of their employees and that workers are aware of their rights and obligations. Read more about progress made by the Platform in a recent study published on this topic.

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Stay up-to-date with the latest Platform news

Thematic review workshop: Effective penalty measures for tackling undeclared work, including cost effective administrative actions, 7-8 June 2022

This hybrid event took place in Athens, Greece and online, and provided an opportunity to share knowledge and experiences between members and observers of the Platform. It brought together 34 Platform members and observers including social partners. The event focused on two main topics: the range, type, and effectiveness of penalty measures available to tackle

undeclared work; and the effective administrative actions for executing penalty measures. Read more about the outcomes of the event in the [executive summary](#) and the [learning resource paper](#).

Platform seminar: Tackling undeclared work in supply chains, 20 September 2022

The hybrid event took place in Bratislava, Slovakia and online, which brought together 71 participants including social partners to exchange knowledge, discuss root causes and possible solutions, and identify good practices that could be transferred to different settings. Participants gained valuable insight into the scale and scope of the problem and explored how the challenges could be overcome. The seminar emphasised the importance of collaboration and coordination between all stakeholders involved in the labour and social security areas to ensure a safer and more secure environment for workers. Read more about the outcomes of the event in the [executive summary](#).

Thematic review workshop: Preventing under-declared employment through innovative approaches, 26-27 October 2022

This hybrid event took place in Tallinn, Estonia and online, and explored innovative, sustainable and effective approaches to preventing under-declared employment. It provided Platform members and observers an opportunity to exchange best practices, to identify aspects that could be transferred to different settings, and to deepen their understanding of the range and type of measures for tackling under-declared employment available. Read more about the outcomes of the event in the [executive summary](#).

Catch up on other Platform activities

- 12 September 2022: Output paper from the [Subgroup meeting on tackling undeclared work among displaced persons/refugees from Ukraine](#)
- 12 October 2022: [Subgroup meeting: Alert mechanisms to identify undeclared work at an early stage](#)
- 18-19 October 2022: [Peer learning dialogue: Challenges and solutions in preventing, detecting and proving undeclared work in new forms of work](#)

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Long-time no see! Staff visits in 2022



Staff learning visit Romania-France (September 2022)

The Platform has seen great value in its staff visit programme which has been conducted in seven countries this year. Interpreters have been provided to facilitate communication and the positive feedback received from the participant staff has strengthened relationships between labour inspectorates from the host and visiting countries. As a result, ELA will continue to support the scheme to promote resource sharing, exchange of information, and new ideas for collaboration. A call for applications for future staff exchanges will be available in the first quarter of 2023.

“This study visit and joint inspection model allows everyone involved to learn from the experience, explain it, and use it to find better ways of doing things in the field of competence” – Joint activity report, Labour Inspection Romania

“The exchange was extremely enriching from a personal point of view: the welcome of our counterparts was warm, and our exchanges very interesting.” – Joint activity report, General Directorate of Labour, France

New collaborative workspace (CIRCABC)



To facilitate access to information for Platform members and observers, a new collaborative workspace is being implemented. CIRCABC (Collaborative and Information Resources Centre for Administration, Businesses and Citizens) is a web-based application being introduced by ELA to support Platform members and observers and will replace the existing SharePoint site. With CIRCABC, users will be able to find documents, presentations and other materials from Platform activities since its establishment in 2016. In addition, the access to documents will be harmonised across various ELA working groups and the Management Board. We are excited to announce that access to this new collaborative workspace will be available in the first quarter of 2023. More information will be announced soon.

Latest and upcoming publications

[Study report on progress of national authorities towards holistic approach](#) (PDF, 1356 KB)

[Executive summary - Thematic review workshop: Effective penalty measures for tackling undeclared work, including through cost effective administrative actions](#) (PDF, 148 KB)

[Learning resource paper from the Platform seminar: Tackling undeclared work in the care and personal and household services sector](#) (PDF, 430 KB)

[Learning resource paper from the thematic review workshop: Effective penalty measures for tackling undeclared work, including through cost-effective administrative actions](#) (PDF, 328 KB)

[Report of the peer learning dialogue: Approaches tackling undeclared work in transport of goods by light commercial vehicles \(LCV\)](#) (PDF, 400 KB)

[Executive summary - Platform seminar: Tackling undeclared work supply chains](#) (PDF, 108 KB)

[Operational conclusions - Outputs of the twelfth plenary meeting of the European Platform tackling undeclared work](#) (PDF, 128 KB)

[Twelfth plenary meeting - 24 March 2022 - Thematic report](#) (PDF, 414 KB)

Watch this space! Forthcoming publications will include:

- Study on developing methodology and Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) measuring the effectiveness of labour inspectorates
- Updates to 27 Member States country factsheets on undeclared work
- Toolkit on effective penalty measures
- Study on the extent of undeclared work in the EU
- Learning resource paper from the Platform seminar: Tackling undeclared work in supply chains
- Learning resource paper from the thematic review workshop: Preventing undeclared employment through innovative approaches

- Upcoming videos on the Holistic Approach to tackling undeclared work and Promising practices for promoting declared work
- Output paper: Subgroup on Alert mechanisms to identify undeclared work at an early stage
- Operational conclusions - Outputs of the Thirteenth plenary meeting of the European Platform tackling undeclared work (8-9 November)

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Inspiring practices from Platform members



Czechia - National Programme of Inspection Actions 2022 Protecting workers from Ukraine (PDF, 189 KB)



Lithuania - Risk Assessment Centre (RAC) and Joint Operation Centres (JOCs) (PDF, 135 KB)



Poland - Rights for All Seasons Information Campaign. Week of action on seasonal work and work abroad (PDF, 218 KB)



Slovakia - Public register of employers infringing the ban on illicit employment (PDF, 166 KB)



Spain - Guide for inspectors on the collaborative economy and annual training course (PDF, 145 KB)



Norway - Department for combatting work-related crime (PDF, 188 KB)



Slovakia - National Approach towards the crisis in Ukraine Protecting workers from Ukraine (PDF, 260 KB)

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Upcoming events - Dates for the diary

- **Q1 2023:** Online meeting on tackling undeclared work among displaced persons / refugees from Ukraine
- **28-29 March 2023:** Platform plenary meeting
- **Q2 2023:** Subgroup on social ID cards
- **Q2 2023:** Seminar on tackling undeclared work in the construction sector, focused on the household repair, maintenance and improvement (RMI) subsector (TBC)
- **28-29 November 2023:** Platform plenary meeting

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The Road to Fair transport continues even in 2023...



...HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

Keep in touch

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