

Welcome to the Undeclared Work Platform newsletter.  
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What's  
New



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Publications



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Studies

#### Focus on prevention

This edition focuses on preventative approaches to tackling undeclared work (UDW), such as service vouchers or awareness-raising campaigns. Alongside inspiring examples of such measures, you will find below a summary of the recent activities and latest publications of the Platform.



## What's New

#### Platform video

Why should we tackle UDW and what is the role of the European Platform? This short [video](#) provides viewpoints from Platform members and experts from across Europe. Please share with your networks.



#### Platform Plenary meeting, 8-9 March 2018

The first day of the meeting was dedicated to discussing the importance of **preventative measures**. Case studies demonstrated how service vouchers provide incentives to move undeclared into declared work whilst also providing important benefits for workers. Participants also learned how creative awareness campaigns can change attitudes and behaviours increasing support for the benefits of declared work. A key recommendation was to use and combine both preventative and deterrence approaches. A short learning resource will be published on the UDW Platform web pages shortly.

What are the **main obstacles/ barriers to tackling UDW cross-borders**? Prof. Williams presented the preliminary findings of a recent survey of Platform members. The top three obstacles respondents face are: the difficulties with data sharing, legal framework/ legislative issues and the third inadequate resources. The full results of the survey will be used to develop the Platform's next work programme.

The Plenary approved [the study](#) on new developments and trends in undeclared work. This work focuses upon the impacts of the 'collaborative' (sometimes called the 'sharing' or 'gig') economy on UDW in the EU and how this can be addressed. The main conclusions are: this part of the economy is growing quickly; it can provide a breeding ground for UDW and false self-employment; there have been important national and sectoral level regulatory initiatives involving a mix of deterrence and incentive measures; and social partners can make important contributions.

Find out more [here](#).

#### European Parliament hearing on the Platform, November 2017

Representatives of the Platform and the Bureau had a positive exchange of views at the November meeting of the Employment and Social Affairs Committee. If you would like to find out more, you can watch a [recording of the meeting](#).



#### Apply now for staff exchange!

Would you like to visit other countries to share ideas and learn from peers? Applications for staff exchange are now open for Platform members and observers. Note that places will be allocated on a first come, first-served basis.

#### Example from a successful visit

The Irish Workplace Relations Commission, hosted a successful staff visit from Norway in 2017. Pål Lund from the Norwegian Labour Inspectorate said that the visit *'gave both countries a huge advantage in discovering new ideas and practices to tackle undeclared work'*. Pål explained *'my colleague took part in a joint operations team doing unannounced visits or "streetscape" operations in County Sligo. He also brought back to Norway the [Employer's Guide to Workplace Relations Commission inspections](#) which is invaluable in helping us improve our information for employers'*.



#### Seminar on letterbox companies

What are letterbox companies and how can they be identified? How can UDW linked to these companies be tackled? These are some of the important questions discussed at our recent seminar on the topic. Key learning outcomes include the need to improve cooperation nationally and cross-border particularly around information sharing. In addition, to tackle letterbox companies, 'white listing' and/or quality labelling processes can be effective also establishing liability chains, whistleblowing protection for exploited worker groups and media campaigns to raise awareness of problems caused.

Find out more in the [executive summary](#) and [learning resource paper](#).

#### 'The Truck Driver's Mother', a preventative measure from Norway

Over 3,000 Heavy Goods Vehicles (HGVs) cross the border into Norway every day. Foreign lorry drivers are not used to Norway's challenging driving conditions and are three times more likely to be involved in an accident. Many of these drivers are also underpaid as they are not aware of their rights as employees. The Norwegian authorities have struggled to reach these drivers so they decided the best thing to do was to call their mums! The result is an award winning public awareness film 'The Truck Driver's Mother'. With over 6 million views it has helped inform foreign lorry drivers and their employers of the road safety regulations and the unique driving conditions in Norway.

Find out more about this example, and other success stories, in the [compilation document](#) available on the UDW Platform web pages.



### Latest Publications

You can find all of the below publications, and many more, on the UDW Platform web pages: <http://ec.europa.eu/social/udw>

#### Studies

- [Undeclared work in the collaborative economy](#)
- [Under-declared employment in the European Union](#)
- [Final report of the 2017 survey of Platform members](#)
- [The Scale of UDW in Europe and its determinants](#)

#### Event materials

- [Data Mining Toolkit](#)
- [Construction Toolkit](#)
- [National and Bilateral Agreements and Memoranda of Understanding Toolkit](#)

#### Fiches

['Where is your limit?' an awareness-raising campaign in Sweden](#)

Run by the Swedish Work Environment Authority, this campaign centres around the question: "Where is your limit"? It targets employers and aims to make them reflect on why they are stretching the law. The campaign also seeks to increase their understanding of the social and wider economic impact of their actions.

Find out more about this campaign in our [practice fiche](#).

['UDW – It's bad for you, harmful for all', awareness-raising campaign in Portugal](#)

This campaign sought to raise public awareness in general and with workers and employers in particular, about the risks of UDW. It brought public authorities and social partners together to help raise awareness about the risks of UDW and change attitudes.

Find out more about this campaign in our [practice fiche](#).



### Forthcoming Events

*Please note all Platform events are by invitation-only, aimed at Platform members and observers or their nominated representatives.*

#### Thematic Review Workshop on information tools, Stockholm 22 & 23 March

Workshop participants will be invited to share and learn about how information and communication approaches can educate workers and employers, changing their norms and values about the costs of UDW and benefits of declared work.

#### Mutual Assistance Project in Lithuania, 16 to 19 May

These MAPs offer an individual Platform member the opportunity to be counselled in an area where they need support. In May, Platform members from Ireland, Latvia, The Netherlands and Sweden, supported by experts, will assist the Lithuanian State Labour Inspectorate to improve its effectiveness in tackling UDW. There will be a follow-up visit by the team to help ensure that the learning, insights and actions are translated into concrete improvements and positive change.

#### **Seminar on UDW in Road Transport, Brussels 1 June**

This event focuses on road freight transport sector which has purportedly high levels of UDW. This sector faces many challenges, including low profit margins, fierce competition, extensive subcontracting and business practices exploiting wage differentials between European countries. Practitioners and experts will discuss existing practices, tools and approaches to tackle UDW both nationally and cross-border.

#### **Thematic Review Workshop on risk assessments, Spain 14 & 15 June**

Which are the most risky sectors, the riskiest revenues and who are the most risky employers – in relation to UDW? This workshop will explore how tax and labour inspectorates target their inspections and enforcement activities through the use of risk assessments and the indicators/alerts/algorithms behind the tools.



### Upcoming Studies

- Study on preventative measures to tackle UDW reviews the range of preventative approaches for tackling UDW used by Member States. It explains the rationale for prevention, describes different types of measure and their effectiveness.
- Study on identifying new emergent forms of tax and social security evasion and how they might be tackled
- Study on tackling UDW in the agriculture sector in which there are high concentrations of unregistered employment, envelope wages and bogus self-employment



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