

UNDECLARED WORK

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The European Platform on undeclared work

Welcome to the second edition of the Platform newsletter. Each issue provides updated information on past, current and future activities of the European Platform on undeclared work (UDW).



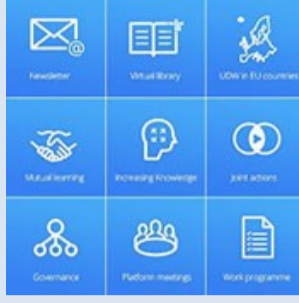
WHAT'S NEW?

Platform plenary meeting, 9-10 March

Platform members and observers came together to discuss bogus self-employment, with presentations from Professor Jason Heyes, author of the forthcoming Platform study on this topic, as well as Platform members from a number of countries. The debate covered a number of subjects, from the scope of BSE and its consequences, to how Member States and social partners, as well as the Platform itself can try to tackle it.

There followed a discussion on the way forward for the Platform, focusing on upcoming activities of the work programme. This included a contribution from Tom Bevers, Chair of the Employment Committee (EMCO). It was agreed that the UDW Platform and EMCO will support each other's work by sharing expertise and exchanging information.

Reports from the meeting will be made available on the web pages of the Platform.



New dedicated web pages for the UDW Platform

Take a look at the new web pages dedicated to the Platform. Here you can find the reports of the plenary meetings, [sign up to the newsletter](#) and access a virtual library, which includes resources such as materials from events, studies, toolkits, good practices, etc.

[Click here to access the web page](#)

Seminar on developing a holistic approach to tackling UDW

This seminar brought together Platform members from all 28 EU Member States and Norway (EEA), as well as European-level social partners and international organisations. Presentations on the policy approaches to tackling UDW and how these can be combined and sequenced were given by Professor Colin Williams, University of Sheffield and Professor Erich Kirchner, University of Vienna. Alongside this, country-specific examples were presented, ranging from a national action programme (Finland), to a national electronic register of employment (Estonia) and a new national labour inspectorate (Italy). Together with Norway and France, which presented examples of collaborative working, these interesting practices showed how holistic approaches can be achieved by stakeholders working together.

Key learning outcomes were as follows:

- It is important for Member States to develop a coordinated and integrated approach that uses both direct and indirect controls;
- There is a need for evaluation of policy measures to guide policy making;
- There is also a need for greater evidence on the effectiveness of how policy measures can be combined and sequenced;
- The next step is to consider the implications of these findings when tackling specific parts of the undeclared economy.



National seminar: Sweden

This was the first in a series of five national events which bring together national authorities involved in the prevention and deterrence of UDW. The seminar took place on 31 January in Stockholm and brought together 54 participants from 12 different national authorities.

Undeclared work is high up on the agenda of the Swedish government. The seminar explored the benefits of and conditions for a more target-oriented cooperation between the national authorities in tackling UDW. Representatives of the Nordic countries gave presentations on their national priorities and practical approaches they implement to tackle UDW. The seminar also had a particular focus on the concept of trust and what it could entail for authorities involved in fighting UDW.

"...this day was very interesting and for sure shows the importance of collaboration between national authorities. The presentations gave food for thought – especially the examples from other countries and the part that dealt with the concept of trust..."

Seminar Participant



Mutual Assistance Projects (MAP)

Mutual assistance projects (MAPs) offer an individual Platform member the opportunity to be counselled in an area where they need support. The first MAP took place in Romania on 21-23 November 2016. Platform members from the Netherlands and Ireland, two academic experts and the Romanian authorities engaged in a peer-to-peer dialogue. The team of Platform members and experts assisted the Romanian Labour Inspectorate by providing guidance and recommendations for improving effectiveness in tackling UDW.

Exchange of staff and joint training

The deadline for submitting applications has been extended until **30 April 2017**.

This programme allows members to facilitate learning and information exchange, establish mutual trust and kick-start future joint activities. All EU and EEA countries have the opportunity to send annually one staff member, nominated by their Platform representative, for a maximum of five working days to visit another Platform member or to participate in other joint activities.

Contact EMPL-UDW-PLATFORM@ec.europa.eu for more information.



LATEST PUBLICATIONS

Learning resources:

[Developing a Holistic Approach for Tackling Undeclared Work](#)

This learning resource paper presents key findings from the Platform Seminar held in December 2016.

Good practice fiches:

[Norway: Joint Operations – an effective tool against work-related crime and social fraud](#)

Describes a measure to extend regional and local cooperation between agencies through the establishment of 'joint operation groups'.

[Estonia: Increasing efficiency through a single employment register](#)

Presents an example of an electronic register of employment, set up to store data relating to employment in one place, rather than in separate databases for the different authorities involved. Data from the register is used by a number of stakeholders, e.g. to monitor the working conditions of migrant workers, monitor and investigate accidents at work, and verify tax compliance.

[France: Operational Departmental Committees against Fraud \(CODAF\)](#)

Explains how the French administration has strengthened its institutional cooperation between the different authorities in charge of fighting fraud.



FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Please note: all Platform events are invitation-only, aimed at Platform members and observers or their nominated representatives. In the case of national seminars, national UDW stakeholders are the target audience.

11-12 April 2017: Thematic review workshop: National and bilateral agreements and memoranda of understanding to tackle UDW (Utrecht, the Netherlands)

At this event delegates will share working experiences and good practices UDW. How to design, implement, monitor and improve agreements and memoranda of understanding for the different authorities involved. Learning resources from the event will be made available in the virtual library on the Platform's web pages.

3 May 2017: Platform Seminar: Tools and approaches to deal with undeclared work in the construction sector (Brussels)

The construction sector has for many years been characterised by high rates of UDW. This seminar, which will take place in Brussels, will look at existing practices, tools and approaches that deal with the issue in construction. Delegates will exchange best practices, identify aspects that could be transferred to different settings and explore how difficult challenges can be overcome.



1-2 June 2017: Thematic Review Workshop: Data mining for more efficient enforcement (Helsinki, Finland)

Data mining uses data analysis tools to search for valuable information in large volumes of data. This workshop will focus on the role and contribution of data mining in tackling UDW (as well as under-declared work or bogus self-employment).



UPCOMING STUDY

[The Practices of Enforcement Bodies in Detecting and Preventing Bogus Self-Employment](#)

This study looks at how enforcement bodies in EU Member States work to prevent and detect bogus self-employment (BSE), with a particular focus on eight case study countries: Greece, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, the Netherlands, Romania, Spain and the UK. It provides an overview of BSE in Europe and describes both national and cross-border activities to tackle this issue. The report will be published soon on the Platform web pages.

CALL FOR PROPOSALS

A call for proposals has been launched, offering co-financing for joint activities and cross-border projects of enforcement authorities. The total funding available is EUR 1,000,000 and the Commission expects to award 2-3 grants of around EUR 400,000.00 per project. More details are available at the following [link](#). The deadline for proposals is 12 June 2017.

Please feel free to forward this newsletter to other interested readers.

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 Privacy statement, [here](#)