

Employment and Social Affairs Platform 2 –
ESAP 2

**Webinar- “Data matters!”
Labour Market Trends in Western Balkans (WB)
and
Using Data Collection, Sharing and Analysis to Tackle Undeclared Work in WB**

June 11, 2021

Introduction

The Employment and Social Affairs Platform 2 project aims to support regional cooperation among the Western Balkan economies in transforming undeclared work into declared work, pursuing a holistic integrated strategic approach, akin to that of the EU.

Objectives

The aim of the Webinar- “Data Matters!” is to bring together representatives of Ministries of Labour, Labour Inspectorates and Tax Authorities from the six Western Balkan economies with the focus on two objectives:

- I. Present an ESAP 2 analysis focused on the WB 6 labour markets in 2019, and during the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, and highlight key trends.
- II. Focus on undeclared work and discuss how collecting, sharing and analysing data can improve enforcement authority performance in not only detecting but also preventing undeclared work.

In the first part of the Workshop, the participants will have an opportunity to hear the findings of the ESAP 2-project commissioned Report on the overall situation and trends in the Western Balkan Labour Markets in 2019 and 2020, this study analyses situation in each of the six region’s labour markets in 2019, and during the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020. The report considers the factors that affect the region’s labour markets, measures undertaken by governments to mitigate the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, and effects of these on labour market outcomes.



In the second part of the Workshop, representatives of authorities will have the opportunity to share learning on the challenges faced in their enforcement authorities around data collection, sharing and analysis, and how they have sought to overcome them.

A focus will be upon sharing “good practices” on topics such as:

- How authorities ensure that real time up-to-date data exists in databases (e.g., asking employers or customers to upload data directly).
- Innovative sources of data (e.g., big data, social media) used to detect undeclared work.
- Initiatives to improve data sharing between authorities (e.g., bilateral agreement) or with customers (e.g., pre-filling returns).
- How resources have been re-allocated to invest in data analysis/data analysts.
- How “return on investment” on database creation has been shown (e.g., how you have costed returns from inspections using data analysis compared with “random” inspections).
- How authorities have established communication between back office (data analysts) and front office (inspectors):
 - How you overcame fears among inspectors that their role was being de-professionalised.
 - How you trained inspectors to use databases.
 - How you implemented a bottom-up approach so that inspectors can feed up to data analysts what works and what “red flags”/“alarms” should be used
- Any other good practice on: (i) data collection; (ii) data sharing or (iii) data analysis.

Agenda June 11, 2021

09:00 – 09:05 Welcoming and overview of the day – RCC

09:05 – 09:20 Presentation of ESAP 2 Western Balkan Labour Markets Report -RCC ESAP 2

This ESAP 2 Report analyses the situation in each of the six Western Balkan economies' labour markets in 2019, and during the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020.

09.20-09.45 Presentation on using data collection- approaches to tackling undeclared work

Introductory presentation on using data collection, sharing and analysis to tackle undeclared work – Prof. Colin Williams, University of Sheffield, UK
Q&A - chaired by RCC

09.45-11.15 Using data collection, data sharing and data analysis: enforcement authority experiences

Brief presentations (5 minutes) from participants on any good practice in their enforcement authority on:

- Data collection
- Data sharing
- Data analysis

Q&A – facilitated by RCC/expert

11.15-11.30 Break

11.30-12.45 Using data collection, data sharing and data analysis: enforcement authority experiences (continued)

Brief presentations (5 minutes) from participants on any good practice in their enforcement authority on:

- Data collection
- Data sharing
- Data analysis

Q&A, and group discussion - facilitated by RCC/expert

12.45-13.00 Taking the learning forward

- Key learning points, good practices, recommendations, and disseminating our learning from the day - Colin Williams (University of Sheffield)
- Concluding remarks - RCC