

Employment and Social Affairs Platform 2 – ESAP 2

Improving Social Partner Involvement in Tackling Undeclared Work

Webinar

19 April 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 this seminar is to bring together representatives of Ministries of Labour, Labour Inspectorates, Tax Authorities and social partners from the six Western Balkan economies to discuss how the involvement of social partners in tackling undeclared work might be improved.

A 2020 RCC survey of social partners in all six Western Balkan economies revealed that social partners want to engage more fully in tackling undeclared work. The intention of this seminar is to explore the scope for greater cooperation between enforcement authorities and social partners, and the types of initiatives in which social partners could become more involved.

The Seminar will provide an opportunity for enforcement authorities and social partners to explore the scope for greater cooperation and to share learning on the type of initiatives that social partners can pursue to protect legitimate businesses and workers and increase their membership base by transforming undeclared work into declared work.

This seminar will enable participants from enforcement authorities and social partners to discuss and share understanding of the major challenges they face in pursuing greater cooperation and provide tips for other Western Balkan economies on how these challenges might be addressed.

Agenda

19 April 2021

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

09.05-09.30 **Opening plenary: overview of social partner involvement in tackling undeclared work in the Western Balkans**

Report of study of social partner involvement in tackling undeclared work in the Western Balkans – Colin Williams, University of Sheffield, UK
Q&A - chaired by RCC

09.30-11.00 **Developing cooperation between enforcement authorities and social partners: social partner perspectives**

Brief presentations (5 minutes) from social partners on:

- What are the major challenges in developing greater cooperation?
- How could cooperation be improved?
- Name one practical step that could be undertaken to improve cooperation

Q&A and group discussion – facilitated by RCC/expert

11.00-11.15 **Break**

11.15-12.30 **Developing cooperation between enforcement authorities and social partners: enforcement authority perspectives**

Brief presentations from enforcement authorities

- What are the major challenges in developing greater cooperation?
- How could cooperation be improved?
- Name one practical step that could be undertaken to improve cooperation

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

12.30-13.30 **Break**

13.30-15.00 **Social partner initiatives for tackling undeclared work**

This session discusses possible social partner initiatives that could be pursued in WB6 economies. These initiatives are listed and briefly described in the Background Paper circulated prior to the Seminar



- Overview of social partner initiatives in the EU to tackle undeclared work – Colin Williams, University of Sheffield, UK

15.00-15.15 Break

15.15-15.30 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