

Employment and Social Affairs Platform 2 – ESAP 2

Developing a Holistic Integrated Strategic Approach Towards Undeclared Work

Regional webinar

30 September 2020

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 workshop is to bring together representatives of Ministries of Labour, Labour Inspections and Tax Authorities from the 6 Western Balkan economies to discuss how to develop a more holistic integrated strategic approach towards undeclared work.

Further, in light of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and measures related to its containment on economic activity and employment, participants will share and discuss current policy measures introduced to support the transition into declared work.

In many economies, a fragmented and uncoordinated approach exists across the multifarious government bodies responsible for tackling undeclared work and limited integration of social partners, as well as an incomplete range of policy measures used. A holistic integrated strategic approach is:

where governments use a whole government approach to tackle undeclared work, by joining-up on the policy and enforcement level of both strategy and operations the fields of labour, tax and social security law, and involve and cooperate with social partners and other stakeholders. This approach involves using the full range of *direct* and *indirect* policy measures available to enhance the power of, and trust in, authorities respectively. The objective is to transform undeclared work into declared work in an effective manner.

This workshop discusses the major challenges participants face in achieving each component and tips that Western Balkan economies have for overcoming these challenges.

Draft Agenda

30 September 2020

10.00 – 10.20 **Introductory Session**

Welcome and opening remarks - *Mr. Nand Shani, ESAP 2 Team Leader, RCC*

What is a holistic integrated strategic approach? - *Prof. Colin Williams, international expert on undeclared work, RCC*

10.20 – 10.40 **Component 1: Shifting from “reducing undeclared work” to “transforming undeclared work into declared work”**

Presentation: Prof. Colin Williams, international expert on undeclared work, RCC

- What are the major challenges when trying to shift the objective of authorities from “reducing undeclared work” to “transforming undeclared work into declared work”?
- What tips and examples of good practice can those who have achieved this provide to others who have been less successful in doing so?

10.40 – 11.10 **Component 2. Developing a whole government coordinated approach**

2.1 Introducing a cross-government body on undeclared work and a joined-up strategy

- What are the major challenges in developing a cross-government body and joined-up strategy?
- What tips and examples of good practice can those who have achieved this provide to others who have been less successful in doing so?

11.10 – 11.40 **2.2 Joining-up operations across government**

- What are the major challenges in developing a cross-government body and joined-up strategy?
- What tips and examples of good practice can those who have achieved this provide to others who have been less successful in doing so?

11.40 – 12.10 **2.3 Cross-government cooperation on data mining, matching and sharing**

- What are the major challenges in developing greater cross-government cooperation on data mining, matching and sharing?
- What tips and examples of good practice can those who have been more successful offer to others who have been less successful in doing so?

12.10 – 12.40 **2.4 Improving social partner involvement**

- What are the major challenges in improving the involvement of social partners in tackling undeclared work?
- What tips and examples of good practice can those who have been more successful offer to others who have been less successful in doing so?

12.40 – 13.00 **3. Implementing the full range of direct and indirect tools**

Presentation: Prof. Colin Williams, international expert on undeclared work, RCC

- What tools do you rely on most to tackle undeclared work (e.g., penalties and detection; incentives to operate declared; awareness raising)?
- What tools are less used in your enforcement authority?

13.00 – 13.10 **Conclusions and Next Steps**

Mr. Nand Shani, ESAP 2 Team Leader, RCC