

# Tackling Undeclared Work in the Western Balkans through Structured Regional Cooperation

# Background to the Network

- European Platform Tackling Undeclared Work
  - history
  - the first four years
- West Balkans
  - towards alignment

# Objectives of the Network

- *Cooperation and joint action*: the Network will facilitate closer cooperation across borders, and develop effective and efficient tools that facilitate the work and support capacity building;
- *Mutual learning*: peer learning and peer reviews will be organised in different formats such as thematic reviews, seminars or mutual assistance;
- *Increasing knowledge*: analyses of existing information and small scale research studies to better inform institutional policy making and implementation and encourage innovative approaches to tackling undeclared work.

# Holistic integrated strategic approach

- a whole government approach joining-up on the level of both strategy and operations the policy fields of labour, tax and social security law, and involving social partners. It uses 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.

# Components

- **1: Shifting the objective from “reducing undeclared work” to “transforming undeclared work into declared work”**
- **2: Developing a whole government coordinated approach**
  - 2.1 Introducing a cross-government joined-up strategy
  - 2.2 Joining-up operations across government
  - 2.3 Improving the involvement of social partners
  - 2.4 Cross-government cooperation on data mining, matching and sharing
- **3: Implementing the full range of policy measures**
  - 3.1 Implementing more effective sanctions
  - 3.2 Improving the risk of detection, including developing data mining, matching and sharing
  - 3.3 Improving the ease and benefits of engaging in declared work
  - 3.4 Implementing education and awareness raising campaigns
  - 3.5 Modernising enforcement authorities

Component	Implementation Activity	Month 1 = June 2020
<p><b>Component 1: Shifting the objective from “reducing undeclared work” to “transforming undeclared work into declared work”</b></p>	<p>5 Plenary meetings of the Network [to summarize the thematic work, provide updates on key national developments and inform future network activities]</p> <p>Working Group meeting: rethinking the future objectives, roles and competencies of labour inspectorates and tax authorities</p>	<p>1, 6, 11, 17, 23</p> <p>7</p>

Component	Implementation Activity	Month 1 = June 2020
<b>Component 2: Developing a whole government coordinated approach</b>	Thematic Review Workshop: developing a holistic integrated strategic approach	4
	3 small studies on topics such as tackling envelope wages; detecting and preventing bogus self-employment; tackling undeclared work in the sharing economy.	7 - 9 12-14 20-22
	Organize 3 study visits/staff exchanges	13,17, 21
2.1 Introducing a cross-government joined-up strategy	6 National seminars	16-18
2.2 Joining-up operations across government	Seminar: Joining-up operations across government	19
2.3 Improving the involvement of social partners	Seminar: Improving the involvement of social partners	13
2.4 Cross-government cooperation on data mining, matching and sharing	Thematic Review Workshop: data mining, matching and sharing	16

Component	Implementation Activity	Month 1 = June 2020
<b>Component 3: Implementing the full range of policy measures</b>		
3.1 Implementing more effective sanctions	Working Group Meeting: improving the range and effectiveness of sanction tools	12
3.2 Improving the risk of detection, including developing data mining, matching and sharing	Thematic Review Workshop: Improving risk assessment in enforcement authorities	21
3.3 Improving the ease and benefits of engaging in declared work	Seminar: preventative approaches towards undeclared work	5
3.4 Implementing education and awareness raising campaigns	Working Group Meeting: tools for education and awareness raising	18
3.5 Modernising enforcement authorities	Thematic Working Group: modernising enforcement authorities	22
	3 additional Thematic review Workshops	14, 15-19, 20

Component	Implementation Activity	Month 1 = June 2020
Mutual Assistance Projects	Self-assessment by enforcement authorities	4-8
	Conduct peer-to-peer assistance visits	9-12
	Mutually agreed recommendations reports	12-14
Technical assistance	Additional demand driven technical support to beneficiary institutions to implement selected priority measures [based on the recommendations stemming from the regional network activities and the mutual assistance projects].	

# JUNE – DECEMBER 2020

MONTH	ACTIVITY	CONTENT
June 2020	Plenary	Work programme of Network COVID-19 challenges & responses: share learning
September 2020	Thematic Review Workshop	Developing a holistic integrated strategic approach
October 2020	Seminar	Preventative approaches
November 2020	Plenary	
December 2020	Working Group	Rethinking the future objectives, roles and competencies of labour inspectorates and tax authorities
December 2020	Mutual Assistance Projects	Six enforcement authorities complete Self-Assessment Questionnaire
December 2020 – February 2021	Small Scale Study	Subject to be decided from following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- COVID responses;</li><li>- A sector study (e.g. construction; tourism; agriculture);</li><li>- A type of undeclared work (e.g., envelope wages; bogus self-employment; online platform economy).</li></ul>