

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>Component 1: Shifting the objective from “reducing undeclared work” to “transforming undeclared work into declared work”</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 |
|--|--|--|
| Component 2: Developing a whole government coordinated approach | <p>Thematic Review Workshop: developing a holistic integrated strategic approach</p> <p>3 small studies on topics such as tackling envelope wages; detecting and preventing bogus self-employment; tackling undeclared work in the sharing economy.</p> <p>Organize 3 study visits/staff exchanges</p> | <p>4</p> <p>7 - 9</p> <p>12-14</p> <p>20-22</p> <p>13,17, 21</p> |
| 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 |
|---|--|---------------------------|
| Component 3: Implementing the full range of policy measures | | |
| 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">- COVID responses;- A sector study (e.g. construction; tourism; agriculture);- A type of undeclared work (e.g., envelope wages; bogus self-employment; online platform economy). |