



Fourth meeting of the European Labour Authority Working Group on Information
1 December 2020

- Summary of deliberations -

The ELA Working Group on Information (henceforth, 'the Group') held its fourth meeting on 1 December 2020 by video conference.

The agenda included five items, the results of which are reported in the following.

Item 1. ELA Introduction

In its introductory remarks, the Authority updated the Experts on the latest activities of ELA, including the integration of National Liaison Officers, developments in the field of concerted and joint inspections and the ELA Workshop on Road Transport sector.

ELA also informed that the Executive Director designate – Mr Cosmin Boiangiu – will take up his duties on 16 December 2020.

Item 2. Study on the provision of information by EU websites: presentation of the first findings

The contractor of VT/2020/019 presented to the Experts the methodology and first findings of the study it is carrying out on the information provided by EU websites on labour mobility, including Your Europe and the EURES portal. The study is expected to be finalised by January 2021. The contractor will need to ensure that its findings and recommendations are based on a robust methodology.

Item 3. Social Security Coordination: discussion on national information websites

The Group completed its exploration of the information-provision challenges in different labour mobility areas with a session analysing national websites on social security coordination. The session was built on the results of the replies to a questionnaire sent by ELA prior to the meeting. The social partners presented their view on the challenges in this field while Croatia presented its website (www.migracije.hr), providing a unified approach to information targeted for workers on the benefit entitlements in the areas covered by the coordination of the social security system, amongst others.

Experts concluded that ELA could play an important role in the field of social security coordination by supporting the translation of websites' content into other languages; organising specific trainings and exchanges of best practices; providing intelligence on how to best structure the information on websites with several responsible institutions involved;

and exploring the provision of assistance services to individuals and employers accompanying online information.

Item 4. Approach on presenting collective agreements on single posting websites

The Group discussed the endorsement of the draft Approach on presenting collective agreements on national websites on posting prepared by ELA. The Authority presented the changes introduced to the prior version to take on board the written comments provided by the Member States and the social partners. It stressed the non-binding nature of the document and its aim to provide a flexible methodology to inspire Member States when summarising the contents of applicable collective agreements to comply with the obligations set by Directive 2014/67/EU.

The Experts endorsed the Approach subject to clarification of two aspects in writing. Experts also underlined the living nature of the document, which could be further integrated over time.

Item 5. Providing information to cross-border seasonal workers

This session was organised in two parallel sub-sessions respectively dealing with information provided by official channels of recruitment, including the EURES Portal, and with reach-out activities towards vulnerable cross-border seasonal workers.

In the first sub-session, France presented its platform and initiative “Maintenant!” and Greece presented its annual European Online Job Days “Seize the summer” within the framework of EURES. The Experts discussed which information they considered crucial for seasonal work and Member States’ approaches as to how they organise and transmit information on rights and obligations for workers and employers engaged in seasonal work. The Experts underlined ELA’s ongoing role in improving the provision of information to workers and employers including by strengthening the role of the EURES network in supporting activities also for this category of workers.

In the second sub-session, Bulgaria presented about policies to reach out to their citizens working as cross-border seasonal workers, especially focusing on the practice of the *special hotline* they have in place. The German trade union confederation (DGB) presented its Project “Faire Mobilität” consisting of counselling centers established across Germany. They offer advice and assistance to migrant workers in several foreign languages through a number of field activities. The Experts stressed ELA’s key role in strengthening the cooperation between national authorities, the social partners and other stakeholders, supporting the development of multilingual information channels and organising campaigns with a view on increasing cross-border workers’ awareness of their rights and opportunities to tackle labour law illegalities and undeclared work.

Item 6. Organisation of the Working Group

The Experts discussed the schedule and organisation of the future meetings of the Group, as well as ways to improve collective work, tapping on available expertise. Experts agreed to have two semester plenary meetings and two meetings mainly dedicated to a single topic, which should include peer reviews. Reviews will be carried out with the active participation of the social partners. These meetings will be complemented by ad-hoc expert meetings preparing new initiatives and, in the future, mutual learning and training sessions. The

Authority will circulate a provisional meeting calendar and a concept note organising the conduct of peer reviews session, in January 2021.

The next meeting on 2 March 2021 will be dedicated to the posting of workers, and include the peer review of some national websites.

Any other business

The Authority informed the Experts that in the year 2020 the Translation Facility has supported the translation of over 90 documents, mainly but not exclusively into English and dealing by half on posting of workers. While no more translation requests can be accepted for 2020 the draft Work Programme for 2021 allocates further resources to the Facility which pending adoption by the Management Board should be available as of January.

Date of next meeting: 2 March 2021