

IRELAND

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| Title of the policy or measure (in English) | Hidden economy monitoring group (HEMG) |
| Case study/good practice name | HEMG |
| Country | Ireland |
| Sectors | Originally agriculture/fishing. Now covers all sectors, particularly those susceptible to undeclared (including BSE) work. |
| Target Groups | Vulnerable workers and/or those complicit in driving illegal work arrangements. |
| Short sentence summarising the measure | The HEMG was established was a discussion forum pooling a variety of social partners in order help reduce the level of undeclared work in Ireland. |
| Background | |
| Background context driving the implementation of the measure | HEMG was established under Ireland's social partnership framework with a view to securing better compliance with work regulations through enforcement/inspection. |
| When was the measure implemented? (including start date and end date/ongoing) | The HEMG was established in 1990. It was expanded in 2006 under the Towards 2016 partnership agreement. The measure is ongoing. |
| Names(s) of authorities/bodies/organisations involved | Representatives of Ireland's tax authorities, the Office of the Revenue Commissioners, Workplace Relations Commission, the Department of Social Protection, the Irish Congress of Trade Unions (ICTU), the Irish Business and Employers' Confederation (IBEC), the Small Firms' Association (SFA) and the Construction Industry Federation (CIF). |
| Scope of the measure (a pilot project, nationwide, regional wide) | Nationwide. |
| Type of (policy) measure | Discussion forum. |
| Key objectives of the measure | The objective of the HEMG is to help reduce the level of undeclared work in Ireland. |
| Specific measure | |
| Description of how the measure operates in practice | A standing forum for pooling views of the authorities/bodies involved with a view to establishing solutions to wicked problems associated with the informal economy. The HEMG has played a role helping to provide greater clarity with respect to employment status. In particular, and with specific reference to |

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| | addressing BSE, the HEMG group helped review and amend the application of the Code of Practice for Determining Employment or Self-Employment Status of Individuals. |
| Which groups are targeted by the measure? | All areas of the economy, though high-risk sectors in particular including those with known instances of BSE. |
| What resources and other relevant organisational aspects are involved? | Staff time is required. Limited resources may explain the lack of meeting reports/publications resulting from the HEMG. |
| What are the source(s) of funding? | No specific/named source of funding. |
| Evaluation and outcome | |
| Has the measure achieved its objectives? | <p>Limited evidence. The HEMG was reviewed by Eurofound in 2009 in a summary which also highlighted an interest/remit of the HEMG as a means of tackling Bogus Self-Employment (BSE).</p> <p>Although data on its use or impact are not available, the Code of Practice for Determining Employment or Self-Employment Status of Individuals continues to be used by the relevant departments and enforcement agencies in Ireland (e.g. relating to Revenue, Department of Social Protection). This may be considered an achievement of the HEMG with direct relevance to addressing BSE.</p> |
| Assessment method (including indicators used to measure its impact), and the outputs and outcomes achieved | No evaluation currently available. |
| What are lessons learnt and the key conditions for success? | Dialogue with the social partners is required for holistic joined up policy making and responses to wicked problems associated with the informal economy. The impact of the HEMG may have suffered as a result of the Irish Government's abandonment of social partnership agreements following the 2007/2008 financial crash. |
| Level of transferability (e.g. other countries/groups/sectors) | Highly transferable where political/departmental will exists, particularly so where dialogue with social partners is desired. |
| Contacts | |
| Sources | http://www.taoiseach.gov.ie/attached_files/Pdf%20files/Towards2016PartnershipAgreement.pdf |
| | http://www.eurofound.europa.eu/observatories/emcc/case-studies/tackling-undeclared-work-in-europe/hidden-economy-monitoring-group-ireland |

