



## European Platform Undeclared Work

### Outputs of the third plenary meeting of the European Platform tackling undeclared work 19-20 October 2017, Brussels

#### **19 October 2017 – Thematic discussion undeclared work in the collaborative economy**

Separate report to follow.

#### **20 October 2017 – Ordinary Plenary meeting**

##### ITEM 1 and 2: Opening remarks and adoption of outputs from 9-10 March 2017

The agenda of the meeting was adopted. The thematic report on bogus self-employment and the outputs of the second plenary session on 9-10 March 2017 were adopted and will be published on the website of the Platform<sup>1</sup>.

##### ITEM 3: Reports from workshops ‘undeclared work in the collaborative economy’

Two rapporteurs gave short reports on the discussions at the workshops: 1. Workshop: country strategies to tackle undeclared work in the collaborative economy 2. Workshop: approaches by enforcement bodies – needs by enforcement bodies. The findings, main conclusions and possible follow up of the entire thematic discussion will be presented in the separate report.

##### ITEM 4: Report from the UDW Platform Bureau on its main activities in the first year of the Platform

The co-chairs described the activities undertaken by the Bureau over the course of October 2016 – October 2017. The co-chairs reminded that feedback from Platform members and observers is important to help them in their work.

##### ITEM 5: Working group ‘Feasibility of extension of IMI system to UDW’

The plenary endorsed the report and the recommendations of the working group:

1. Develop and implement a specific IMI module on UDW,
2. Design the new module in a flexible way so it can be adapted in the future,
3. Continue the mandate of the WG.

##### ITEM 6: Working group ‘Success stories’

It was agreed that the report of the working group will be published on the Platform’s website. It was also agreed that a new call for success stories will be published next year and that the working group will continue its work in 2018 to review the new success stories.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=1299&langId=en>

#### ITEM 7: Report on survey results and updated MS factsheets

ICF Consulting/University of Sheffield presented the findings of the survey of Platform members carried out in 2017. The aim of this survey and the associated report is to provide a baseline assessment at the start of the Platform, which can be used to measure progress over time.

Delegates were invited to send feedback on the survey report and country fiches within one week of the Plenary meeting (27 October 2017). It was agreed that - once revisions have been made to take account of feedback from the Platform - the survey report and country fiches will be published on the UDW Platform website.

#### ITEM 8: Studies on estimated size of undeclared work in Member States

ICF Consulting/University of Sheffield presented the findings of a study<sup>2</sup> carried out to estimate the size of undeclared work in Europe, using the labour input method. This study is a Commission input to the discussion in the Platform and does not form part of the Commission's work programme.

Main findings are that on average, 11.6% of total labour input in the private sector in the EU is undeclared, and undeclared work constitutes on average 16.4% of gross value added (GVA). Evaluating whether cross-national variations in the size of undeclared work are associated with variations in various structural conditions, there is found to be: A strong significant relationship with GDP per capita in purchasing power standards (the greater the level of GDP in PPS, the lower the prevalence of undeclared work); and the quality of government (based on the European Quality of Government Index, where the higher the quality of government the lower the prevalence of undeclared work).

It was agreed that the terminology used in the study will be reviewed.

#### ITEM 9: Information points

##### Mutual learning event in Norway

The NO representative to the Platform presented the outcomes of the mutual learning event held in Norway on 25-26 September 2017 under the EMCO mutual learning programme. The topic of the event was 'Joint operation groups between public agencies – an effective tool to prevent and tackle undeclared work'. Documentation from this event will be made available on the website of the EMCO mutual learning programme<sup>3</sup>.

##### Mutual Assistance Project (MAP), Latvia

The LV representative to the Platform described the positive experience of taking part in a mutual assistance project (MAP) and encouraged other Member States to get involved in future MAPs. The ultimate aim of MAPs is to support each Member State/enforcement body to improve its own performance through a structured and systematic reflection and how this has been achieved within a specific policy context, institutional and organisational context. The self-assessment process is further supported through external feedback; in the case of the Latvian MAP feedback was given by four experts coming from Platform members and two

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<sup>2</sup> Bejakovic, P., Mikulic, D., Franic, J., Kadir, A. (2017), Using the Labour Input Method (LIM) to estimate the scale of undeclared work in the EU

<sup>3</sup> <http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=1070&langId=en>

other experts. Hence, external assessment has an auxiliary and preparatory function; it is a facilitator for better understanding and learning.

For future MAPs it was suggested to systematically train the experts

#### Results of annual survey (take up and satisfaction survey)

The main findings of the annual survey of activities (take up and satisfaction survey) were presented. It turned out that overall respondents believe the Platform has made progress towards its objectives and mission in particular regarding 'exchanging best practices and information' and that more work needs to be done in the areas "Improving the capacity of Member States' different relevant authorities and actors" and "Increasing public awareness of UDW and encouraging Member States to step up their efforts to tackle it".

#### European Parliament Employment Committee

The EMPL committee of European Parliament has invited the Platform to present its work in a hearing on 9 November.

#### Dissemination video

A short video has been prepared about the Platform. It will be published on the Platform website in due course.

#### ITEM 10: Discussion and adoption of fine-tuned work programme 2018

##### Discussion/decision on staff learning visits on basis of options paper

The Plenary decided to open up the scheme for up to three persons per Platform member per year to participate, allowing the possibility to include social partners representatives to participate as well. Furthermore, it was agreed to introduce the principle 'first in, first serve' for applications, to grant priority to visits/exchanges that are undertaken as follow up of activities from Platform's work programme and to invite participating countries to present their experiences to the Plenary.

##### Thematic focus of activity 7 - seminar on transport sector

It was agreed that the Seminar on UDW in the transport sector in Q2 2018 would focus on road transport. The transport sector, notably air transport, may be included as a thematic focus in the work programme for 2018-2019.

##### Thematic focus of Plenary meetings in 2018

It was agreed that the topics of preventive approaches and under-declared work will be the focus of the next Plenary meetings. Preventive approaches will be covered in the March 2018 meeting and under-declared work in October 2018.

The dates of the next Plenary meetings are as follows:

- 8-9 March 2018, Brussels
- 18-19 October 2018, Brussels

**ITEM 11 Relevance of using data from ‘Regulation (EU) No 904/2010 on administrative cooperation and combatting fraud on the field of VAT**

The FR representative to the Platform presented the main features of this regulation and pointed to the possibilities that access to the VAT database created under this regulation could offer. It was agreed that the forthcoming survey of Platform members on obstacles to cooperation should include questions on the exchange of data on VAT and a mapping of Member States about use of the database by Platform members in accordance with the legal provisions.

**AOB:**

The COM representative informed briefly about some possible features of the European Labour Authority that President Juncker announced in the State of the Union address on 13 September 2017.

It was agreed that a working group of the Platform will be established to provide advice on the creation of the European labour authority. Members / observers were asked to inform the Secretariat of their interest in being involved by 27 October 2017.

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