





European Platform tackling undeclared work

Constructionworkers.eu online tool

European Union

	Summary The website www.constructionworkers.eu provides concise and accessible information on wages, working conditions and the rights of construction workers for 36 European Countries in 30 European Languages. This site helps raise awareness amongst workers as to whether their employer is abiding by these rights and conditions. This awareness in turn can lead to reporting, detection and prevention of undeclared work.
Title of the practice in original language	<i>Constructionworkers.eu</i>
Name(s) of authorities/bodies/organisations involved	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The European Federation of Building and Woodworkers (EFBWW).
Sectors	Construction and woodworking
Target groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workers in the construction and woodworking sector (directly targeted); • Labour inspectorates and national authorities (indirectly targeted); • Labour Unions (indirectly targeted); • Labour consulting bodies (indirectly targeted).
Purpose of measure	Changing attitudes: awareness raising

	Aims and objectives The website aims to inform posted construction workers of their rights in 36 European countries. It also aims to put posted construction workers in contact with trade unions to answer their questions and support them in times of need.
Background context	<p>The website was established in 2016 by the trade union umbrella group, the European Federation of Building and Woodworkers¹ (EFBWW) specifically in response to the phenomenon of posting of workers within the construction sector.</p> <p>Temporary mobility and, in particular, the posting of workers, is vital to the construction sector since the</p>




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	<p>workforce is very mobile. There is also generally high demand for skilled and unskilled workers as well as strong competition between construction companies.</p> <p>However, the principle of 'the same wage for the same work at the same workplace' is not always respected. This website helps workers to receive sector-specific, concise and easily accessible information about their rights. Workers are also able to contact trade unions in their country of origin, or host country, to receive direct support.</p> <p>This initiative underlines the importance of improving access to better and clearer information on employment terms and conditions in the Member States, responding to Directive 2014/67/EU. In addition, it helps to ensure a correct application of Directive 96/71/EC (which relates to the posting of workers and has been modified by Directive 2018/957) by protecting the rights of posted workers.</p>
Key objectives of the measure	<p>General Objective:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To inform posted, mobile and regular construction workers of their rights across 36 European countries. <p>Specific Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To help workers to receive sector-specific, concise and easily accessible information about their rights; To help workers contact trade unions in their country of origin or host country (for posted workers) to receive direct support; To raise awareness of labour rights/obligations; To direct workers to official information websites.
Main activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The website is an easy-to-use tool, available in 30 different languages, to raise awareness among workers of their rights concerning salary, working time, travel abroad and lodging, premiums, holidays and sickness and injuries; It provides information on standards that are applicable within the sector in different countries; Through the website workers can get in touch with trade unions for direct assistance.
Funding/organisational resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The website has been set up by the European Federation of Building and Woodworkers (EFBWW) with financial support from the European Union (DG EMPL); The initial set-up cost for the website was approximately EUR 60 000 (website only). The annual maintenance cost is around EUR 15 000;



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Human resources are provided by the affiliated members of the EFBWW; • Technical expertise (software, design) is provided by external experts.
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	Outcomes <p>Information on rights and obligations of construction workers is successfully provided through the website in a format that is tailored to the needs of construction workers. This attention to the reality of the construction sector has contributed to its success. A similar approach could be transferred to other sectors.</p>
Achievement of objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It has been possible to inform workers of their rights and obligations through the website, an important achievement given that similar national resources are limited; • The target groups receive sector-specific and easily accessible information thanks to the multilingual nature of the website (all EU languages are available) greatly enhancing its use; • Via the site, workers have made direct contact with trade unions for support. However, the number of collaborations is still limited and only 2% of visitors have shown interest in contacting them;ⁱⁱ • At the time of writing, the website has been visited 30 000 times since its launch. The countries with the highest user numbers include Austria (11.5%), the UK (10.5%), Italy (7.6%) and Belgium (6.7%). Half of the visitors were between 18 and 34 years old.ⁱⁱⁱ
Lessons learnt and success factors	<p>Providing adequate and appropriate information on wages and working conditions to construction workers has various dimensions, which should be tackled simultaneously:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developing an accessible web tool tailored to target group needs. However, providing plain language and easy to understand information about a complicated topic remains challenging; • Providing the information in 30 languages (including all 24 EU languages) has broadened its accessibility for workers; • Ensuring that the available information is regularly updated requires a systematic approach;



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is important for workers to be able to get in touch directly with trade unions in their own language and in an informal manner; • It is important to provide workers with the legal information available, avoiding jargon where possible; • Putting into practice an effective and efficient awareness and information dissemination strategy, which also considers the reality of the industry, is crucial; • Third country nationals are also concerned by posting of workers. They face specific challenges and difficulties, which this website helps to address.
Transferability	<p>The website compiles information regarding the rights of workers in the construction sector in the Member States of the European Union plus other countries. The information is displayed in all the official EU languages as well as additional languages. This same approach could be useful and transferable to other sectors with a mobile labour force.</p>

Further information	
Contact	<p>Werner Buelen, Political Secretary, European Federation of Building and Woodworkers (EFBWW)</p> <p>Email: wbuelen@efbww.eu</p> <p>Phone: +32 (0) 2 227 10 45</p> <p>Mobile: +32 (0) 475 84 06 48</p>
Useful sources and resources	<p>Constructionworkers.eu website</p> <p>https://www.constructionworkers.eu/en/</p> <p>Directive 2014/67/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 15 May 2014 on the enforcement of Directive 96/71/EC concerning the posting of workers in the framework of the provision of services</p> <p>Directive (EU) 2018/957 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 28 June 2018 amending Directive 96/71/EC concerning the posting of workers in the framework of the provision of services</p> <p>https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A32014L0067</p>



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ⁱ The EFBWW is the European Industry Federation for the construction industry, the building materials industry, the wood and furniture industry and the forestry industry. See <http://www.fiec.eu/en/our-partners/efbww.aspx>

ⁱⁱ Data extracted from Google analytics.

ⁱⁱⁱ Idem.