



Eighth meeting of the European Labour Authority Working Group on Information
7 December 2021

- Summary of deliberations -

The ELA Working Group on Information held its eighth meeting on 7 December 2021 by video conference. The agenda included six items, the results of which are reported in the following.

1. ELA Introduction

In its introductory remarks, the Authority updated the experts on the latest activities as well as the upcoming events.

On 2/12, in cooperation with the Information Support Service, ELA organized a follow up to the peer reviews – a second hands-on workshop with the participation of CZ (plus 5 MS as observers) focused on particular aspects of the Czech national website. The workshop was assessed as very useful by the participants. ELA also reminded about the possibility for all reviewed Member States to request ELA to organize a similar workshop for tailored support and assistance focusing on practical solutions to address issues identified during the peer review session.

ELA also outlined the agenda and main objectives of the Road Transport Workshop to be held on 9/12 – the event aims at presenting and discussing the ELA Framework for Action in Road Transport. The second part of that event is dedicated to presentations by the Commission on the new modules of IMI System for the Road Transport.

2. Summary of ELA workshop of national liaison offices for posting of workers

ELA presented a summary of the first ELA workshop for the representatives of the national liaison offices for the posting of workers, with the participation of the European Commission and social partners.

The objective of the workshop was to exchange practices in the management of these offices, identify and discuss common challenges, and explore ways how the Authority could support the activities of the offices. The workshop addressed working methods and challenges with respect to the two functions of the national offices: information provision and administrative cooperation operation between Member States (which takes place mainly through IMI).

ELA concluded by illustrating some possible future activities engaging the liaison offices: an annual meeting; joint thematic workshop and events with the Commission and other information services; ELA reviews of single national websites taking into account feedback from liaison offices on frequently asked questions; sharing information materials concerning posting legislation of other Member States; information events for workers and employers in the Member States.

3. Single websites on posting: peer review session

The Working Group continued the peer review process of single national websites on the posting of workers – it was a third review session. The peer review covered analysis of the findability, accuracy, completeness and user-friendliness of the posting webpages as well as selective analysis of the information provided on the following aspects of posting legislation: remuneration, long-term posting and declaration obligations.

The Group reviewed four single national websites (BG, LV, PT, SK). Reviewers were other Member States (respectively, HR, EE, ES, AT), the social partners and the Commission. The reviews were quite comprehensive and in-depth. The reviews generally gave positive feedbacks, while underlining the room for improvement, especially as it comes to the number of available language versions, accessibility and quality of information on remuneration and collective agreements, and using more user-friendly language. The Commission recommended using ELA templates for presenting information on collective agreements, notification obligation and long-term posting that were endorsed by the WG last year. The important role of the ELA Translation Facility was underlined by the experts in the context of improving the quality of websites.

Participants will be asked to comment on the Review Reports that the Information Support Service will circulate shortly. The peer review process will continue next year.

4. Update on the ELA Translation Facility

ELA presented updated information on the state of play of using the ELA Translation Facility (so far 22 MS submitted translation requests, 168 documents have been translated). ELA reminded about the scope of the Translation Facility and encouraged the Member States to make use of it still before the end of 2021 and in 2022. In 2022 the budget for translation will amount to over EUR 500,000.

ELA announced the organisation at the beginning of 2022 (January/February) of a short workshop for the Country Translation Coordinators in order to exchange about the functioning of the system, including questions regarding the quality of translations, and improve the process of submitting requests.

5. Work Programme of ELA WG on Information for next year

After summarizing the activities of the Working Group in 2021, in line with the SPD 2022-2024 and ELA Work Programme for 2022, ELA proposed to focus its information activities on three thematic priorities, namely the posting of workers, the international road transport sector and seasonal work. ELA also indicated further areas of preliminary activity, including in the domains of social security coordination and platform work. ELA also mentioned a feasibility study on developing new information tools, which is envisaged for the second half of 2022 and whose precise subject will be consulted with the Group beforehand.

The Group was supportive towards the choice of priority areas. Some experts remarked that some topics such as the posting of workers and road transport require more horizontal, comprehensive and coherent approach within ELA. The announcement of the road transport information campaign (planned for the second half of 2022) was welcomed by the Group. Some Member States reiterated the need to set up a specific working group on the posting of workers, covering all the aspects of the former Expert Committee on the Posting of Workers. The Commission reassured the Group that it is reflecting on possible follow-up solutions to the activity of the Expert Committee and the Group will be updated on their results. Some members of the Group found that the domain of platform work / social security should have a

strict information focus, and that especially as regards platform work it could seem premature for the Group to address this theme.

6. Future organization of the Working Group:

Recognizing the relevance and the necessity to continue the activities of the Group over the coming years, the Authority proposed to adopt a more issue-specific approach and to set up thematic subgroups, while reducing the number of meetings of general nature of the Working Group. ELA put forward to create three thematic sub-groups related to the priorities identified under point 5) above: posting of workers, road transport and seasonal work.

Experts agreed on the need for specialization of expertise. However, some experts raised doubts about the added value of creating subgroups and rather supported the organization of thematic meetings of the Working Group with the possibility of involving further experts. ELA indicated that this aspect requires further reflection.

The Authority yet announced that the first meeting of the Group in 2022 will take place around the end of January/beginning of February and will concern the road transport sector, including a preparatory discussion on the campaign.

The exact date of the next meeting of the Working Group will be confirmed as soon as possible.