



Twelfth meeting of the European Labour Authority Working Group on Information 21 June 2022

- Summary of deliberations -

The ELA Working Group on Information met for the 12th time on 21 June 2022. The meeting was held in hybrid format, in Bratislava, in ELA premises and online on Webex for the experts unavailable to attend in person.

The purpose of that strategic meeting was to discuss the progress on Information and Services activities in the first half of the year, as well as the future steps envisaged for the second part of 2022 and a first outlook into 2023.

The agenda covered the following topics the results of which are reported as follows:

1. Seasonal work

ELA presented updates on recent and planned activities on seasonal work focusing on the pilot project on building a community of practice through cross-border onsite workshops.

The idea of the pilot project is to support the targeted provision of information to mobile seasonal workers and employers and gather good practices that could be potentially transformed into case studies to be shared amongst all Member States through ELA. The Authority plans to organise three workshops in various locations across the EU from October to December 2022 involving the receiving countries and their counterparts as countries of origin of mobile seasonal workers. Aim of the meeting is to discuss challenges encountered in information provision to mobile seasonal workers and employers, as well as relevant information practices established in the Member States. The initiative was welcomed by the Group. So far 9 MS expressed their interest in participating in the pilot project.

ELA also informed that the #Rights4AllSeasons 2021 campaign material will be made available for reuse (CIRCABC).

2. Posting of workers

ELA reported to the Group on the hands-on workshop for Poland and Malta aimed at improvement of their single national posting websites that took place on 26 April 2022, with the participation of observers from Lithuania and Hungary. ELA will continue to offer this kind of support to the Member States that express their interest.

ELA presented the concept of future activities concerning national posting websites, namely a booklet of lessons learnt from the peer reviews conducted in 2021 and 2022 (18 single national websites were reviewed). The booklet will provide analytical synthesis of most important findings stemming from performed peer reviews as well as practical advice that could be considered by Member States when improving a single national website on posting. The draft will be prepared with the assistance of the ELA contractor by September and discussed with the WG in October. The initiative was welcomed by the Group; however, the need of sufficient time for consultation was underlined, and the decision whether the booklet will be shared among the WG only or published on ELA website will be postponed until the product is available.

ELA indicated that the possibility of organising peer reviews of single national websites still remains open (also for the MS that already participated in that exercise). Commission underlined the importance of peer reviews.

3. Feasibility study on innovative digital information tools

The Group was informed about a tender for a feasibility study on an introduction of innovative digital information tools at EU level that ELA plans to launch this summer. By this study ELA seeks to find suitable tool(s) whose development would both improve provision of labour mobility related information on EU level and also keep the pace with technology that is able to facilitate the access and usability of existing information for the end users (EU citizens, workers, employers, Member States). ELA presented potential ideas to be analysed by the study.

The experts are invited to give written feedback to the presented options via EU Survey questionnaire which was shared with the WG shortly after the meeting. They are also welcome to suggest some additional innovative solutions or useful sources to be taken into account while finalising the content for the tender specifications.

4. Road transport

ELA presented the state of play of the international road transport campaign preparation including the key messages and campaign slogan (Road to Fair Transport; #Road2FairTransport).

The Group was informed of the planned roadshow of local information events targeted to operators and drivers that are supposed to be organised this year (from October to December) in 5 Member States.

ELA also presented planned actions regarding interaction with drivers and operators, with a view of collecting their feedback and questions.

In the discussion that followed the presentation the Group welcomed the planned initiatives, social partners suggested to extend the roadshow to more countries. The importance of interpretation to local languages during the events was indicated by the Group. The Authority underlined that roadshow events might be continued next year if they turn out to be useful and welcomed by stakeholders.

5. Access to information and service

The Authority updated the Group on cooperation with assistance services, both the EU-level coordinated (Your Europe Advice, SOLVIT, EEN), and the national level run services such as the Free Movement Bodies.

ELA and the Commission provided an overview of their ongoing cooperation on further development of labour mobility webpages of the Your Europe portal (e.g. on road transport, posting of workers). Broader cooperation on access to national level information, involving the Group and the Single Digital Gateway Coordination Group, was discussed.

6. ELA Translation Facility: updates and figures

ELA updated the Group on progress in the first half of the year presenting some spending and statistics figures. Some Members repeated appreciation for this translation service provided by ELA.

ELA presented an initial idea of a new terminology project for ELA with terms, references, contexts as well as definitions (ELA-wide project).

7. Ukraine

An update of activities undertaken by ELA to support Member States in providing protection to displaced persons coming from Ukraine was presented to the Group including: developed and shared videos focusing on promoting declared work and preventing abuse; support offered to the Member States with translations; mapping of national measures in the field of access to employment and social security offered to displaced persons; providing forums for exchanging practices and experience of national authorities related to implications of individuals' inflow in EU labour markets; collection of Member States' questions and problems and channelling them to the Commission as well as support offered to the Member States in organising joint and concerted inspections in the sectors most likely to engage displaced persons.

ELA contractor presented examples of information tools specifically related to work and employment of Ukrainian displaced persons developed by the EU and Member States.

8. AOB

ELA informed the Group of the tentative calendar of meetings in the second half of 2022:

- 29 September: Road transport– thematic meeting (on-site/ hybrid)
- 25 October: Posting of workers– thematic meeting (on-site/ hybrid)
- 22 November: Platform work – thematic meeting (on-site/ hybrid)
- 01 December: Strategic meeting (on-site/ hybrid)