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## Platform Newsletter

### Platform plenary highlights successful collaborations between enforcement authorities and NGOs

PLATFORM  
NEWSLETTER

JANUARY  
2024



European Platform  
tackling undeclared work



Greetings and welcome to the January 2024 edition of the European Labour Authority (ELA) biannual newsletter for the European Platform tackling undeclared work. In the first edition of the year, we celebrate and reflect on last year's work accomplished and the road ahead.

This issue provides updates on various events and activities of the Platform, focusing on tackling undeclared work, including the Platform plenary meeting in Bratislava on successful collaborations between enforcement authorities and NGOs, the thematic review workshop in Malta on digital solutions for declared work, the webinar on the cost-of-living crisis's impact on undeclared work, and the study visit in Athens that showcased Greece's groundbreaking digital card system.

But that is not all – this newsletter offers a glimpse into the exciting events planned for 2024.

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## A thematic day on enforcement authority-NGO partnerships

In the November 2023 Platform plenary thematic day, the focus was on recognising the pivotal role of NGOs in supporting enforcement authorities against undeclared work. The meeting aimed to highlight the importance of collaboration between enforcement agencies and NGOs, considering perspectives at both policy and operational levels. The Platform also aimed to showcase evidence of successful cooperation between NGOs and enforcement authorities across EU Member States, emphasising effective partnerships in addressing undeclared work.

Examples of successful cooperation from Germany, Greece, Italy, the Netherlands, Poland, Romania and Sweden informed discussions during the plenary meeting, including points on:

- a holistic exploration of the cooperation landscape, including the opportunities, and good practices;
- challenges and practical tips for overcoming obstacles;
- an overview of different forms of collaboration.

The discussions generated actionable strategies and promoted effective collaboration between enforcement authorities and NGOs to help tackle undeclared work, labour exploitation, and human trafficking.

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## Stay up-to-date with the latest Platform news

**Thematic review workshop on e-services - digital solutions to facilitate declared work (21-22 June 2023, Malta)**



The Platform thematic review workshop held in Malta in June 2023, based on the 2023 European Platform tackling undeclared work study on e-services to facilitate declared work, brought together 37 participants from 17 countries to discuss the use of digital public services to combat undeclared work and promote declared work. Key initiatives from various countries were presented, including Malta's [servizz.gov](https://servizz.gov.mt/), Spain's CIRCE, and Greece's [ERGANI](https://ergani.gov.gr/). Participants also discussed the impact of electronic payments on undeclared work and strategies to encourage purchases from the declared economy. The workshop emphasised the need for comprehensive policy programs and increased resources for user-friendly digital public services to effectively address undeclared work. The [executive summary](#) of the meeting and the [Learning resource paper](#) are available on [ELA website](#).

### **Webinar - Potential implications of the cost-of-living crisis on the risk of undeclared work (6 July 2023, online)**

The Platform webinar on July 6, 2023, focused on the impact of the cost-of-living crisis on undeclared work and strategies to address it. The rising cost of living in Europe is a major concern, and the webinar explored how this crisis may lead to increased undeclared work. Potential policy actions for enforcement authorities were also discussed and alongside interactive presentations and interactive elements with Platform members, observers, and experts. Read the report from the webinar [here](#).

### **Platform subgroup meeting on tackling undeclared work among displaced persons/refugees from Ukraine (28 September 2023, online)**

The fourth meeting of the subgroup provided the participants with the opportunity to discuss new developments regarding the situation of displaced persons from Ukraine on the EU labour market. Among others, it focused on how the enforcement authorities and other relevant organisations and institutions can address the vulnerabilities and risks linked to undeclared work and labour exploitation. More than 50 participants from 18 countries, including the State Labour Service from Ukraine, Eurofound, the International Organisation

for Migration and the European Commission joined to share the current measures and updates on legislation relating to integration of Ukrainian workers to the European labour market and expected further developments. The participants also discussed current challenges concerning the labour market integration, such as barriers to employment, sectoral distribution of occupations and job quality, abusive practices – examples and related issues.

### **Country Factsheets update: Tracking progress on tackling undeclared work through the Platform**

Since the inception of the Platform, factsheets for each EU-27 Member State have been produced by national experts, providing an overview of efforts to address undeclared work and to establish baseline information and progress made. The latest update on these factsheets is currently in progress and will be available shortly.

### **Study on the effectiveness of policies to tackle undeclared work**



Undeclared work has important economic and social implications, including the loss of social security contributions and taxes, but also higher incidence of work accidents, missed professional development opportunities for workers, unfair competition and market distortions for businesses, among others. The European Commission launched this study to gather deeper insights into, and empirical evidence of, successful policies and policy combinations for tackling undeclared work. Read the full report [here](#).

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**Greece's Digital Card system: Highlights from the Athens Study Visit**





The Platform study visit to Athens, Greece, 10-11 October 2023, showcased Greece's digital card system and digital inspection reports. Participants learned about the system's use in enforcing labour laws and its benefits, such as transparency and efficiency. Member States exchanged their digital inspection practices, while social partners, including stakeholders from the banking sector, discussed the challenges and flexibility required for contemporary work models. On-site inspections demonstrated the digital card's effectiveness in detecting undeclared employment. Participants valued the exchange of knowledge and practical insights from the visit. The Platform would like to extend its gratitude to our Greek colleagues for hosting this insightful study visit. The [meeting summary](#) is available on [ELA website](#).

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**Prague workshop: Exploring methods and instruments to gather evidence of undeclared work**



The Platform thematic review workshop in Prague on October 25-26, 2023, brought together 27 participants from 15 different Member States and showcased the host country's approach and various other European examples. The workshop focused on addressing undeclared work's legal aspects. The topic originated from a suggestion to the Platform subgroup, emphasising mutual learning about methods and instruments for proving undeclared work, including evidence types, enforcement challenges and legal presumptions.

The workshop promoted knowledge sharing among Platform members and observers, through presentations, discussions, and working groups. A learning resource paper highlighting the outcomes of the meeting will be published on [ELA website](#) shortly.

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## Latest and upcoming publications

LATEST PUBLICATIONS

- [Learning resource paper - Tackling undeclared work in the construction sector](#) (PDF, 753 KB)
- [Study on e-services to facilitate declared work](#) (PDF, 2320 KB)
- [Output paper: Subgroup on evaluating social/labour ID cards as a tool for tackling undeclared work, including in subcontracting chains](#) (PDF, 527 KB)
- [Learning resource paper from the thematic review workshop: E-services: digital solutions to facilitate declared work](#) (PDF, 839 KB)
- [Methods and instruments to gather evidence of undeclared work](#) (PDF, 980 KB)
- [Summary - Study Visit: Demonstration of the Greek digital card project and digital inspection reports including on-site inspections](#) (PDF, 148 KB)
- [Report - Webinar: Potential implications of the cost-of-living crisis on the risk of undeclared work](#) (PDF, 329 KB)

### FORTHCOMING PUBLICATIONS

- Updates to 27 Member States' country factsheets on undeclared work
- Learning resource paper from the thematic review workshop: Methods and instruments to gather evidence of undeclared work

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## Inspiring practices from Platform members



Estonia - Accessibility of open-source information, cooperation and exchange of information between the public sector in Estonia (PDF, 197 KB)



Lithuania - Data mining to identify under-declared employment - A tool of Lithuania's State Labour Inspectorate (PDF, 183 KB)



Norway - Norway's multilingual questionnaires for tackling under-declared employment in the road transport sector (PDF, 204 KB)



Netherlands - Special instruments to tackle undeclared work in goods transport by light commercial vehicles (PDF, 170 KB)



Spain - KPIs used in Spain to measure the performance of the Anti-Fraud Office (PDF, 155 KB)

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## Upcoming events - Dates for the diary

- **30-31 January 2024:** Peer learning dialogue on bogus self-employment II
- **6 February 2024:** Study visit to Spain: Automated procedure on formal infringements
- **7 February 2024:** Meeting of the subgroup: Safe reporting and complaint mechanisms for workers to denounce abuse and seek support
- **21 February 2024:** Platform webinar: Tackling undeclared work among third-country nationals working in supply chains, including via temporary work agencies – [Secure your place at the webinar](#)
- **16-17 April 2024:** Platform plenary meeting: Approaches to encourage and support compliance by employers.
- **23-25 April 2024:** Mutual assistance project in Cyprus
- **May 2024 (tbc):** Thematic review workshop on undeclared work in the cultural and creative sector
- **June 2024 (tbc):** Thematic review workshop on undeclared work among high skilled workers

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