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**European Platform Tackling Undeclared Work Newsletter**

# Spain's Automated Tools for Tackling Undeclared Work



European Platform  
tackling undeclared work



Welcome to the June 2024 edition of the European Labour Authority (ELA)'s newsletter for the European Platform tackling undeclared work!

In this edition, you can explore key discussions from the Platform's 15<sup>th</sup> Plenary meeting in Bratislava, where Platform members and observers gathered to discuss approaches for encouraging compliance by employers.

You can gain insights from the thematic review workshop on undeclared work in the cultural and creative sectors held in Brussels. The workshop addressed issues like non-standard employment and the impact of digitalisation, with participants from 11 Member States discussing potential policy measures.

Additionally, you can read about the findings from the webinar on undeclared work among third-country nationals working in supply chains. Stay updated with the latest developments from the subgroup meeting on safe reporting mechanisms held in Madrid, and learn about the study visit to Spain showcasing automated solutions for tackling undeclared work.

Stay informed and engaged with these important discussions and developments in tackling undeclared work across various sectors.

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## **Platform Plenary meeting presents approaches to encourage and support compliance by employers**

Efforts to tackle undeclared work in the European Union were at the forefront during the 15<sup>th</sup> Platform Plenary meeting held in Bratislava, Slovakia on 16-17 April 2024. Experts discussed the complex nature of undeclared work, especially its impact on small and medium enterprises (SMEs), revealing that significant labour and economic value remains undeclared, urging swift action.

Participants analysed the root causes of undeclared work, differentiating between intentional and unintentional non-compliance by employers. Factors such as regulatory complexity and resource limitations contribute to the problem, posing challenges for both regulators and businesses.

To combat this, proposed measures include:

- targeted interventions against intentional non-compliance;
- awareness-raising among stakeholders;
- simplifying registration and tax procedures, particularly to support SMEs.

Several workshops underscored the importance of a holistic approach to tackling undeclared work, emphasising the need for collaborative efforts from policymakers, stakeholders, and businesses across the EU. These initiatives aim to create a fairer economic environment by promoting transparency, boosting tax revenues, and maintaining labour standards.

The output report from the Plenary meeting will be available on ELA's website.

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

### **Platform thematic review workshop on challenges and policy approaches for tackling undeclared work among highly skilled workers (18-19 June 2024, Bratislava)**



The Thematic Review Workshop on tackling undeclared work among highly skilled workers was held in Bratislava on 18-19 June 2024, bringing together 28 participants from 11 EU Member States, national and EU level social partners, and representatives of the European institutions.

The workshop provided participants with an opportunity to share and deepen their understanding of the challenges and potential solutions when tackling undeclared work among highly skilled workers. Participants addressed the prevalence, types, characteristics, and reasons for undeclared work among highly skilled workers, and discussed findings from the ongoing study "Analysing the extent of undeclared work among highly skilled workers."

The workshop identified challenges in detecting and addressing the various issues, including the complexity of monitoring remote work and the strong skills of highly skilled workers in concealing undeclared activities.

An executive summary and learning resource paper highlighting the outcomes of the workshop will be available on ELA's website.

### **Platform thematic review workshop on undeclared work in the cultural and creative sectors (14-15 May 2024, Brussels)**

The thematic review workshop on undeclared work in the cultural and creative sectors took place in Brussels, Belgium in May 2024. Bringing together 25 participants representing national authorities, EU social partners, European institutions, and thematic experts, from 11 Member States, the workshop aimed to deepen understanding and facilitate the exchange of policy measures for preventing and tackling undeclared work in this sector.

Presentations highlighted:

- the prevalence of non-standard employment forms;
- challenges with project-based work;
- and issues such as bogus self-employment and the impact of digitalisation.

Discussions revolved around defining cultural and creative sectors, inspection approaches, cross-border challenges, policy approaches, and enforcement measures. Examples of policy measures included single contract point systems, voucher schemes, and tax incentives.

An executive summary and learning resource paper highlighting the outcomes of the workshop will be available on ELA's website.

### **Webinar - Tackling undeclared work among third-country nationals working in supply chains, including via temporary work agencies (21 February 2024, online)**

On 21 February, the Platform held a webinar to facilitate discussions and exchange experiences and best practices among Platform members and observers on combating undeclared work within supply chains. The focus was particularly on placement agencies for third-country nationals working in the EU.

The webinar also explored supply chains extending to non-EU countries, which are often used by EU-based employers to address labour shortages in the EU market.

The report from the webinar will be available on the ELA's website.

### **Platform subgroup meeting on safe reporting and complaint mechanisms for workers to denounce abuse and seek support (7 February 2024, Madrid, Spain)**



On 7 February 2024, the Platform subgroup meeting took place in Madrid, bringing together 17 participants from 11 countries. The participants represented labour and social security authorities, ministries, and various stakeholders such as the European Federation of Building

and Woodworkers (EFBWW), the EU Fundamental Rights Agency (FRA), the Platform for International Cooperation on Undocumented Migrants (PICUM), the Spanish Workers' Commissions (CCOO) *del Hábitat* trade union federation, and ELA representatives.

The main focus was on evaluating safe reporting and complaint mechanisms for workers to report abuse and seek support, particularly concerning undeclared work. During the meeting, attendees examined the features of reporting tools, shared experiences and challenges, identified effective practices, and suggested future actions.

Read the subgroup output paper on the [ELA website](#).

### **Mutual Assistance Project in Cyprus (23-25 April 2024, Nicosia, Cyprus)**

During this Mutual Assistance Project (MAP), the Centralised Labour Inspectorate of Cyprus collaborated with the Platform to explore the implementation of social/labour ID cards and enhance the identification of undeclared work in the construction sector in Cyprus. The project involved five experts visiting Cyprus in March 2024 to engage in discussions with national stakeholders and share best practices. It not only provided valuable insights for tackling undeclared work but also reinforced the importance of cooperation. It accentuated the role of collaborative initiatives in enhancing the labour inspections system and promoting fair work. A synthesis report was produced, offering operational guidance and suggestions.

A second visit to assess the implementation of guidance and suggestions will take place in early 2025. It aims to help ensure that the learning, insights, and actions are translated into concrete improvements and positive change, and to offer any further support required to move forward.

### **Peer Learning Dialogues: Testing approaches to tackle bogus self-employment in relation to undeclared work (September and November 2023, and January and March 2024)**



Two Peer Learning Dialogues (PLDs), each comprising of three meetings were organised in the period between November 2023 and March 2024 to explore approaches to preventing, detecting, and tackling bogus self-employment related to undeclared work.

Representatives from ten countries (Belgium, Czechia, Finland, Greece, Ireland, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, and Spain), representing labour, social security and tax enforcement authorities, participated in the three consecutive meetings organised under each of the two PLDs. Additionally, trade union representatives from LO-Landsorganisationen (Sweden) and ACV United Freelancers (Belgium) attended one of the PLD sessions, sharing their experiences and roles in addressing bogus self-employment.

Key Focus Areas:

- 1st and 2nd Meetings: Participants focused on the definitions, characteristics, causes, and trends of bogus self-employment. They shared practices and approaches for preventing, detecting, and tackling this issue.
- 3rd Meeting: Participants discussed lessons learned to improve approaches and jointly formulated suggestions for actions that could be implemented by enforcement authorities in other Member States or supported by ELA.

The output report from the two PLDs, outlining participants' reflections and suggestions for combating bogus self-employment in the EU, will be available on ELA's website.

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## Platform study visit explores automated procedure on formal infringements in Spain



The study visit to Spain showcased Spain's innovative pilot automated penalty system, which addresses formal infringements by employers in the Social Security system using new technologies, such as AI, and Big Data. Insights from other European countries like France, the Netherlands, and Italy underscored the importance of ethical AI, compliance with EU standards, and transparency in algorithmic decision-making in automated procedures for detecting formal infringements.

Participants collectively recognised the significant potential of automated tools to enhance fraud detection and risk assessment in labour inspection, ultimately contributing to more effective enforcement of labour laws across the EU.

Read the study visit executive summary on the [ELA website](#).

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## Latest and upcoming publications

### LATEST PUBLICATIONS

- [Report on evaluating policy responses to prevent undeclared work in public procurement contracts](#) (PDF, 1.04 MB)
- [Learning resource paper from the thematic review workshop: Methods and instruments to gather evidence of undeclared work](#) (PDF, 379 KB)
- [Output paper from the plenary thematic discussion: Cooperation between enforcement authorities and NGOs in tackling undeclared work](#) (PDF, 1420 KB)
- [Executive summary - Study Visit: Automated procedure on formal infringements](#) (PDF, 129 KB)
- [Output paper from the Platform subgroup: Safe reporting and complaint mechanisms for workers to denounce abuse and seek support](#) (PDF, 519 KB)
- [Updates to 27 Member States' country factsheets on undeclared work](#)

### FORTHCOMING PUBLICATIONS

- Output report from the plenary meeting thematic day on approaches to encourage and support compliance by employers
- Executive summary and learning resource paper from the thematic review workshop: Challenges and policy approaches for tackling undeclared work among highly skilled workers
- Executive summary and learning resource paper from the thematic review workshop: Undeclared work in the cultural and creative sectors (CCS)
- Output report from the webinar: Tackling undeclared work among third-country nationals working in supply chains, including via temporary work agencies
- Output report from the peer learning dialogues: Testing approaches to tackle bogus self-employment in relation to undeclared work

## Inspiring practices from Platform members



[Norway - Targeting key 'threat actors' to reduce work-related crime and undeclared work](#) (PDF, 248 KB)



[Greece - Regulating digital platforms – Articles 68-72 of Law 4808/2021](#) (PDF, 251 KB)



[France: My Social Rights portal](#) (PDF, 197 KB)



[Portugal: Tools to detect under-declared work - Road transport sector](#) (PDF, 149 KB)



[Greece - Hellenic digital labour card](#) (PDF, 202 KB)



[Cyprus - Methods and techniques for tackling undeclared work in construction](#) (PDF, 243 KB)



[Romania - Quality in Education \(CALE\) and the European Market Environment in the Construction Sector \(EMECs\) projects](#) (PDF, 226 KB)



[Slovenia - Innovative strategies for combating unregistered employment](#) (PDF, 235 KB)



[Greece - Mobile applications to support labour inspections](#) (PDF, 199 KB)



[Ireland: Construction Industry Register Ireland - CIRI](#) (PDF, 136 KB)



[Denmark - Registration and risk-scoring models](#) (PDF, 190 KB)



[Malta - National Business Portal](#) (PDF, 201 KB)



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## Upcoming events - Dates for the diary

- **10-11 September 2024:** Peer Learning Dialogue: approaches and instruments to support and enforce temporary work agencies' compliance, including rules to regulate temporary agency work, declaration of work, equal treatment of workers and posting of workers
- **8-9 October 2024:** Thematic Review Workshop: Tackling undeclared work on digital labour platforms: approaches and potential solutions.
- **16-17 October 2024:** Study visit to Netherlands: Dutch Labour Inspectorate approach on soft measures, policies and practices for tackling undeclared work
- **20-21 November 2024:** Platform plenary meeting: Current and future roles, competencies and powers of enforcement authorities relevant for tackling undeclared work
- **December 2024 (TBC)** – Platform webinar: Bogus self-employment
- **January 2025 (TBC)** – Platform webinar: Evaluating policy responses to prevent undeclared work in public procurement contracts

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## Keep in touch

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