



Employment and Social Affairs Platform 2 – ESAP 2

Tackling Undeclared Work in the Western Balkans through Structured Regional Cooperation

Regional online meeting

Western Balkan capital, 12 June 2020

Introduction

The Employment and Social Affairs Platform 2 project aims to support regional cooperation among the Western Balkan economies in transforming undeclared work into declared work, pursuing a holistic integrated strategic approach, akin to that of the EU.

Objectives

The meeting will bring together representatives of Ministries of Labour, Labour Inspections and Tax Authorities from the 6 Western Balkan economies to discuss and agree on the regional cooperation objectives and activities for tackling undeclared work, developed in the framework of ESAP 2.

Further, in light of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and measures related to its containment on economic activity and employment, participants will share and discuss current policy measures introduced to support the transition into declared work.

Draft Agenda

Friday, 12 June 2020

10.00 – 10.15 Welcome and Opening Remarks

Mr. Nand Shani, ESAP 2 Team Leader, RCC

10.15 – 11.15 Tackling Undeclared Work in the Western Balkans

Strengthening regional cooperation on tackling undeclared work in the Western Balkans – a proposed course of action

Prof. Collin Williams, international expert on undeclared work, RCC

Questions and Answers

ILO ESAP work plan related to undeclared work component involving pilot interventions and Labor Inspectorates development of regional and national guidelines regarding undeclared work

Ms. Ada Huibregtse, Chief Technical Advisor, ILO

Questions and Answers

11.15 – 12.30 Thematic session on national response to COVID-19: Current trends and policies to tackle undeclared work in the Western Balkans

Undeclared workers are disproportionately affected by the lockdown measures imposed on the Western Balkan economies. They generally work in low productivity jobs and have little to no savings, which could act as a buffer during the crisis. They are also often excluded from the COVID-19 short-term measures implemented by the governments. Several Western Balkan economies have developed measures that aim to target the formalization of undeclared workers. This session will discuss the success of these measures and provide for a regional exchange on the topic.

12.30 – 12.40 Conclusions and Next Steps

Mr. Nand Shani, ESAP 2 Team Leader, RCC