



Tackling Undeclared Work in the Western Balkans through Structured Regional Cooperation

Sarajevo, 15 October 2019

Introduction

Informal economy and undeclared work are important features of the Western Balkan economies and constitute major barriers to enabling inclusive economic prosperity. ESAP-RCC has recently produced diagnostic reports for each Western Balkan economy that look at drivers of undeclared work, the institutional framework and current policy approaches (<https://www.esap.online/pages/11/informal-employment>). Building on current efforts to reduce the informal economy and particularly undeclared work, the reports propose key recommendations on building a holistic strategic approach to tackling informality.

Objectives

The workshop will provide policy-makers, social partners, experts and other actors with an opportunity to exchange on key challenges and priority actions in the Western Balkans for tackling informality from a holistic perspective. Inspired by the work of the European Platform Tackling Undeclared Work, the conference will also encourage an open discussion on ways to establish a strong base for exchange of good practices and mutual learning among peer institutions and key stakeholders in the Western Balkans. Finally, a proposal to establish a structured regional network that will promote knowledge sharing as well as mutual and joint learning and action will be tabled with a view to ensuring regional commitment to continued regional cooperation on tackling undeclared work in the Western Balkans.



Draft Agenda

Monday, 14 October 2019

Arrival of Participants

Tuesday, 15 October 2019

Venue: Novotel Sarajevo Bristol Hotel

8.30 – 9.00 Registration of participants

9.00 – 9.30 Welcome and Opening Remarks

Representative of RCC

*Ms. Christiane Westphal, International Issues, Directorate-General for
Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion, European Commission*

Ms. Lejla Tanović, ILO National Coordinator in BiH

9.30 – 10.30 Tackling Undeclared Work in the Western Balkans

Moderator: RCC representative

Undeclared work in the Western Balkans – key features and challenges

Mr. Nand Shani, ESAP Team Leader, RCC

**Introducing a holistic approach towards undeclared work based on the EU
experience**

Prof. Colin Williams, University of Sheffield, UK

**A view from the EU based on the experience of the European Platform Tackling
Undeclared Work**

*Mr. Bernd Wild, International Issues, Directorate-General for Employment, Social
Affairs and Inclusion, European Commission*

Mr. Tomislav Markota, Director, Croatian Labour Inspectorate (tbc)



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

Mr. Nand Shani, RCC and Ms. Amra Selesković, National LEP Coordinator in BiH, ILO

10.30 – 11.00 Coffee break

11.00 – 13.00 National Priorities for Tackling Undeclared Work and Reflections on Regional Cooperation

Participants will be invited to briefly present national strategies and policies for tackling undeclared work, key forms and sectors of undeclared work in their economy, the degree to which different enforcement agencies work in a joined-up and coordinated manner at the level of strategy, operations and data mining and sharing, and what policy initiatives they pursue beyond conducting inspections.

*Representatives of National Administrations
Views of Social Partners*

13.00 – 14.30 Lunch

14.30 – 16.45 Working Session on Strategic Thematic Priorities and Activities for Regional Cooperation

Participants will discuss the concept for the establishment of a Western Balkan Network Tackling Undeclared Work and its strategic and operational priorities, challenges and benefits of regional cooperation, and give directions for new initiatives they would like to pursue in the coming years

16.45 – 17.00 Conclusions and Next Steps

19.30 Dinner (hosted by RCC)

Wednesday, 16 October 2019

Departure of Participants