

Informal Employment in the Western Balkans - a regional perspective

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Background

- The share of informal employment ranges between around 18% and 30% in the Western Balkans
- EC Communication on Enlargement Strategy: economic development in the Western Balkan region is hampered by an entrenched grey economy, and the share of informal economy and informal employment is very high
- Economic Reform Programmes in the Western Balkans, as the main tools of economic governance dialogue with the EU have prioritized reducing the administrative and regulatory burden on businesses, development of e-services and inspection reforms

Background (cont.)

- Ministries of Labour in the Western Balkans have agreed to prioritize the topic of informal employment in regional cooperation activities
- Employment and Social Affairs 2, funded by the EU and implemented by RCC and ILO in WB6, aims to strengthen regional cooperation and institutional capacities of national administrations, employers' and workers' organisations, enabling them to develop and effectively implement labour market and social policy reforms in their EU enlargement process

Western Balkan Network Tackling Undeclared Work

- *Reference:* The **European Platform Tackling Undeclared Work** enhances cooperation between Member States' authorities to tackle undeclared work more effectively and efficiently – now under European Labour Authority
- *Objective:* support Western Balkan economies in effectively tackling undeclared work through a **holistic approach**, while at the same time establishing a strong base for exchange of good practices and mutual learning among peer institutions in the region
- *Analytical work:* Diagnostic reports look at drivers of undeclared work, the institutional framework, current **policy approaches** focusing on direct and indirect controls, and provide key recommendations on tackling undeclared work
- The reports are available at: <https://www.esap.online/pages/11/informal-employment>

Key activities

- Components of the work of WB6 Network for Tackling Undeclared Work
 - (a) to enhance cooperation and joint action between WB6 authorities and other actors involved;
 - (b) to improve capacities of WB6 authorities and actors to tackle undeclared work through mutual learning;
 - (c) to increase knowledge and public awareness and encourage WB6 countries to step up their efforts to tackle undeclared work.
- Mutual Assistance Projects (MAPs) with the Ministries of Labour and Finance with a focus on labour inspectorates and tax administrations in each WB6 economy in order to improve their capacities and capabilities to tackle undeclared work
 - practical, hands-on and tailored learning activities designed to support and transfer practices, help solve issues, provide advice and implementation support
- ILO contributes to the improvement of availability of data and evidence based on several interventions combating informality

Thank you for your attention!