



‘Mutual learning workshop on access to social protection for workers and self-employed: focus on transparency’

16-17 October 2023

Warwick Hotel Brussels, 5 Rue Duquesnoy, Brussels

Agenda

Day 1 (16 October)

12:00 – 13:30	Arrival and registration of participants and welcome lunch
13:30 – 13:50	Welcome and introduction <i>Katarina Ivankovic-Knezevic, DG EMPL Director for Social Rights and Inclusion</i>
13:50 – 14:15	The Council Recommendation on access to social protection for workers and self-employed and findings from the implementation report <i>Presentation by Laurent Aujean, Policy Officer, DG EMPL, European Commission</i> Q&A
14:15 – 14:45	Thematic presentation on transparency of social protection, including on the contribution of digital tools in the provision of information <i>Presentation by Slavina Spasova, European Social Observatory and Paul Schoukens, KU Leuven</i> Q&A
14:45 – 15:40	Presentations from Member States on the contribution of digital tools in the provision of information <i>Examples from Member States</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Providing information to long-term sickness and disability benefit receivers with the “JobCalc” <i>Maike Vanmeerhaeghe, FPS Social Security, Belgium</i>• Provision of information through digital tools in Finland: two examples of informing the self-employed and Kela’s online services in sign languages

	<p><i>Johanna Louhimies Finnish Centre for Pensions and Satu Mustonen Social Insurance Institution (KELA), Finland</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Electronic sickness benefit process <i>Slavomir Duriska, Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic, Slovakia</i> <p>Q&A</p>
15:40 – 16:10	Coffee break
16:10 – 17:30	<p>Working group discussion on the contribution of digital tools in the provision of information</p> <p><i>Moderated discussions in 3 parallel working groups, providing opportunities for all participants to contribute their views and comments.</i></p> <p>Possible discussion questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are the main challenges to ensure that individuals have access to updated, comprehensive, accessible, user-friendly and clearly understandable information about social protection? • What are examples of effective strategies and measures to ensure that access to information? What types of assessments are in place to evaluate the performance of national systems in this regard? • How and what digital tools can be used to improve access to information for people in vulnerable situations e.g. people with disabilities or people with low levels of (digital or administrative) literacy?
17:30	Close
19:00 – 21:00	Networking dinner – Aux armes de Bruxelles

Day 2 (17 October)

08:30 – 09:00	Welcome coffee and registration of participants
09:00 – 09:15	Recap of the first day
09:15 – 9:45	<p>Introductory thematic presentation on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Simplification in the application process/ receipt of social protection • Transparency of social protection and simplification for non-standard workers and the self-employed <p><i>Presentation by Slavina Spasova, European Social Observatory and Paul Schoukens, KU Leuven</i></p> <p>Q&A</p>
9:45 – 10:30	<p>Presentations from Member States on simplification in the application process/ receipt of social protection benefits</p> <p><i>Examples from Member States</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The ePortál – main interface for electronic communication with CSSA

	<p><i>Jan Škorpík, Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, Czechia</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The national social security institute is becoming more digital: The cases where pre-filled applications for retirement pensions and the automation of survivor's pensions are possible <i>Daniele Russo, Italian Social Security Institute (INPS), Italy</i> Application for claiming maternity benefits <i>Ida Mehl, ATP, Denmark</i> <p>Q&A</p>
10:30 – 10:50	Coffee break
10:50 – 12:10	<p>Working group discussion on simplification in the application process/ receipt of social protection benefits</p> <p><i>Moderated discussion in 3 parallel working groups, providing opportunities for all participants to contribute their views and comments.</i></p> <p>Possible discussion questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What examples can you share on recent effective strategies and measures to simplify the processes of application for/receipt of benefits? What have been recent strategies and measures to simplify the rules applicable to non-standard workers and the self-employed and thus ensure better access for all? Are there relevant examples of automation of benefits receipt across social protection branches? With what opportunities and risks?
12:10 – 13:15	Lunch
13:15 – 14:00	<p>Presentations from Member States on the role of transparency and simplification of social protection rights for non-standard workers and the self-employed</p> <p><i>Examples from Member States</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The access to social security for the self-employed (and selected categories thereof) in Austria and the transparency of information concerning pensions <i>Christine Holzer, Federal Minister of Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection</i> Simplification of the rules for access to social protection for the self-employed <i>Cristina Lobo-Ferreira, Directorate General of Social Security, Portugal</i> The reform of unemployment benefit for self-employed in France <i>Gisele Diallo, Ministry of Health and Prevention, France</i> <p><i>Each presentation will be followed by a Q&A</i></p>
14:00 – 15:20	Working group discussion on the role of transparency and simplification of social protection rights for non-standard workers and the self-employed

Moderated discussions in 3 parallel working groups, providing opportunities for all participants to contribute their views and comments.

Possible discussion questions

- How can transparency of social protection be best ensured, adapted to the situation of non-standard workers and the self-employed, including in schemes with voluntary access?
- How can the transferability of rights be supported, notably by better transparency, for those combining several jobs/statuses or changing status/occupation over time?
- What actions are undertaken or planned to support transferability of rights? What obstacles/ difficulties at play?

15:20 – 15:45	Coffee break
15:45 – 16:15	Reporting back from the working group discussions <i>Presentation of the main messages from the parallel working groups</i>
16:15 – 17:00	Concluding panel and way forward <i>Moderated by the European Commission</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Maaïke Vanmeirhaege, SPF Social Security, Belgium</i>• <i>Ernesto Brodersohn, International Social Security Association</i>• <i>Paul Schoukens, KU Leuven</i> <i>Closing words by the European Commission</i>
17:00	Close