



# **‘Mutual learning workshop on access to social protection for workers and the self-employed: focus on health, sickness, accidents at work and occupational diseases’**

**5-6 February 2024**

*Hotel Martin’s Brussels EU - Boulevard Charlemagne 80, 1000 Brussels,*

## **Agenda**

### **Day 1 (5 February)**

<b>12:00 – 13:30</b>	<b>Arrival and registration of participants and welcome lunch</b>
<b>13:30 – 13:40</b>	<b>Welcome and introduction</b> <i>Dana Bachmann, Head of Unit Social Protection, DG EMPL, European Commission</i>
<b>13:40 – 14:00</b>	<b>Updates from the European Commission about access to social protection</b> <i>Laurent Aujean, Social protection Unit, DG EMPL, European Commission</i>
<b>14:00 – 14:30</b>	<b>Thematic presentation on access to social protection for workers and the self-employed with a focus on healthcare</b> <i>Sonja Avlijas, Thematic expert, Belgrade University</i> Q&A
<b>14:30 - 15:15</b>	<b>Presentations on access to healthcare for workers and self-employed</b> <i>Examples from Member States/stakeholders</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Can people afford to pay for health care? The impact of coverage policy on access to health care for working people - <i>Sarah Thomson, World Health Organisation</i></li><li>• Universal health protection in France - <i>Gisèle Diallo, Ministry of Health and Prevention</i></li><li>• Universal health coverage in Luxembourg - <i>Abilio Fernandes, Ministry of Health and Social Security</i></li></ul>

<b>15:15 - 15:45</b>	<b>Coffee break</b>
<b>15:45 – 17:15</b>	<p><b>Working group discussion on access to healthcare for workers and self-employed</b></p> <p><i>Moderated discussions in 3 parallel working groups, providing opportunities for all participants to contribute their views and comments.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What are the main barriers in access to healthcare for people in non-standard forms of employment?</li> <li>• What challenges do Member States face in ensuring continued formal and effective access to healthcare for all including workers with intermittent employment and self-employed with fluctuating income?</li> <li>• What concrete solutions can help address problems in access to adequate healthcare? (universal approach, complementary schemes, policies to improve financial protection, etc.)</li> </ul>
<b>17:15 – 17:30</b>	<b>Reporting back from the working group discussion</b>
<b>17:30</b>	<b>Close</b>
<b>19:00 – 21:00</b>	<p><b>Networking dinner</b></p> <p>Park Side Brasserie, Av. de la Joyeuse Entrée 24, 1040 Bruxelles</p>

## Day 2 (6 February)

<b>08:30 - 09:00</b>	<b>Arrival and registration of participants</b>
<b>09:00 - 09:10</b>	<b>Recap of the first day</b>
<b>09:10 – 09:30</b>	<p><b>Eurofound study on social protection for the self-employed: main findings</b></p> <p><i>Tina Weber, Eurofound</i></p>
<b>09.30 – 09.50</b>	<p><b>Thematic presentation on access to sickness benefits for workers and the self-employed</b></p> <p><i>Sonja Avlijas, Thematic expert, Belgrade University</i></p>
<b>09.50 - 10:20</b>	<p><b>Presentations from Member States on access to sickness benefits for workers and self-employed</b></p> <p><i>Examples from Member States</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Extension of sickness benefits to low-paid employees in Ireland - <i>Catherine Murphy, Department of Social Protection</i></li> <li>• Increase of sickness benefits for self-employed in Austria - <i>Sarah Kohlweg, Federal Ministry of Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection</i></li> </ul>
<b>10:20 – 10:40</b>	<b>Coffee break</b>

10:40 – 12:05	<p><b>Working group discussion on sickness benefits for workers and self-employed</b></p> <p><i>Moderated discussion in 3 parallel working groups, providing opportunities for all participants to contribute their views and comments.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In which cases can voluntary (rather than compulsory) approaches to coverage by sickness benefits be considered satisfactory?</li> <li>• Should the rules related to waiting periods and qualifying periods be adapted to ensure more effective access to sickness benefits for non-standard workers and the self-employed – and how?</li> <li>• How to deal with partial incapacity to work?</li> <li>• How to ensure adequacy of sickness benefits for the employees and self-employed?</li> </ul>
12:05 – 13:15	<p><b>Lunch</b></p>
13:15 – 13:45	<p><b>Thematic presentation on access to schemes for accidents at work and occupational diseases for workers and the self-employed</b></p> <p><i>Sonja Avlijas, Thematic expert, Belgrade University,</i></p>
13:45 – 14:30	<p><b>Presentations from Member States on access to schemes for accidents at work and occupational diseases for workers and self-employed</b></p> <p><i>Examples from Member States</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Changing world of work, especially platform work - Experiences from German Social Accident Insurance - <i>Ann-Kathrin Schäfer, German Social Accident Insurance (DGUV)</i></li> <li>• The extension of coverage for accidents at work and occupational diseases to the self-employed - <i>Nicholas Artemis and Christina Hadjinicolaou, Ministry of Labour, Welfare and Social Insurance, Cyprus</i></li> <li>• The extension of benefits in respect of accidents at work and occupational diseases to people working under civil-law contracts in Poland, <i>Patrycja Szczypka-Baran, Ministry of Family and Social Policy</i></li> </ul>
14:30 – 15:30	<p><b>Working group discussion on access to schemes for accidents at work and occupational diseases for workers and self-employed</b></p> <p><i>Moderated discussions in 3 parallel working groups, providing opportunities for all participants to contribute their views and comments.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How can accident at work and occupational disease schemes be organised/adapted in order to make them accessible for the self-employed?</li> <li>• Are adequate benefits provided in systems which do not include a specific scheme for accidents a work and occupational diseases? (i.e. when risks are (partially) covered through other schemes such as healthcare or sickness).</li> </ul>
15:30 – 15:45	<p><b>Coffee break</b></p>

<b>15:45 – 16:15</b>	<b>Reporting back from the working group discussions of day 2</b> <i>Presentation of the main messages from the parallel working groups</i>
<b>16:15 – 17:00</b>	<b>Concluding panel and way forward</b> <i>Concluding panel, moderated by the European Commission</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sonja Avlijas, Thematic expert</li> <li>• Mathilde Cregut, SMEunited</li> <li>• Martin Willems, ACV-CSC United Freelancers</li> <li>• Nathalie de Wulf, International Social Security Association</li> </ul> <i>Closing words by Dana Bachmann, DG EMPL, European Commission</i>
<b>17:00</b>	<b>Close</b>