



A Joint European Migration Network & OECD conference
Organised in cooperation with the Estonian Ministry of Interior
9 November 2017
Radisson Blue Royal Hotel Brussels, Belgium

Part II: Illegal Employment of Third-Country Nationals in the EU: Challenges and Solutions

1. Introduction

Illegal employment of third-country nationals (TCNs) continues to be a source of concern for many European countries. Statistics show that in 2015 for example, the estimated scale of illegal employment in different Member States varied from 10% up to 30% of their GDP. Not only is undeclared work a pull factor encouraging irregular immigration, but illegal employment has also an impact on: the tax revenues of a Member State, competition among economic actors and the creation of social dumping. Moreover, illegal employment is also considered a social policy and fundamental rights issue, since the rights of illegally employed workers are often violated.

The most [recent Communication of the European Commission on the Delivery of the European Agenda on Migration](#) (COM(2017) 558 final) highlights the fact that a portion of the EU economy continues to rely on the labour of irregular migrants, therefore undermining the implementation of legal migration schemes. The Communication also recalls that, at the EU level, efforts to reduce illegal employment have been undertaken through different measures and legislative instruments such as: the **Employers Sanction Directive**, the **EU Action Plan against Migrant Smuggling** and the **Platform on Undeclared Work**¹. The EU Directive - which aims to prohibit and sanction the employment of irregular migrants and improve the illegal employment detection mechanisms - together with the EU Action Plan against Migrant Smuggling - through which Member States shall increase the number of labour inspections in high-risk economic sectors- and the Platform on Undeclared Work - under which Member States shall cooperate to explore and better understand the employment conditions of third-country nationals- form already a good basis for the understanding of the scale of the problem and also provide a policy framework to tackle the issue of illegal employment. Besides the underground economy that currently acts as a 'pull factor' for irregular work, the Commission has nevertheless stressed the need for a better understanding of all the other factors that contribute, directly or indirectly, to the state of irregularity of migrants in the EU.

2. Aims and objectives of the event

This event marks the launch of the EMN Study on ['Illegal employment of Third-Country Nationals in the European Union'](#). This comparative report maps the measures in place to fight the phenomenon across the EU, possible problem areas, MS strategies and good practices to overcome them. The event, however, will also provide an opportunity to discuss the recent EU developments on the issue and the practices and measures implemented by some of the

¹ Decision (EU) 2016/344 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 9 March 2016 on establishing a European Platform to enhance cooperation in tackling undeclared work (OJ L 65, 11.3.2016, p. 12).

participant Member States representatives, as well as intergovernmental organisations (IGOs), nongovernmental organisations (NGOs) and other experts.

3. Target audience

The event is targeted at experts from European institutions, MS representatives, international organisations, civil society and research networks that work on the subject of illegal employment or are interested in learning more about the subject.

4. Programme

9 November 2017	
09:00 – 12:30	Part I: Challenges and good practices in family migration policies. Balancing migrants' right to family life, migration control and the competition for talent (see attached agenda)
12:30 – 13:30	Lunch break
	Part II: Illegal Employment of Third-Country Nationals in the EU: Challenges and Solutions
13:45 – 14:00	Registration (only for participants not attending Part I)
14:00 – 14:30	Welcome speech <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Mr Märt Hiietamm, Head of the Home Affairs Section, Estonian Permanent Representation to the EU <p>Opening speeches:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Mr Adam Knych, Deputy Director at the Ministry of the Interior and Administration, the Republic of Poland
14:30 – 15:20	Presentation of the Main Results of the EMN Report, 'Illegal Employment of Third-Country Nationals in the EU' <p>Chair: Ms Simona Ardo vino, Policy Officer, DG Migration and Home Affairs, European Commission</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Mr Silver Stõun, Migration Expert from the EMN National Contact Point for the Republic of Estonia ★ Ms Joanna Sosnowska, National Coordinator of the EMN National Contact Point for the Republic of Poland ★ Mr Philippe Vanden Broeck Advisor, Head office Belgian Labour inspectorate – Belgian Federal Public Service Employment, Labour and Social Dialogue ★ Questions & discussion
15:20 – 15:30	Coffee break
15:30 – 16:20	Panel Discussion, 'Strategies and Measures to Counteract Illegal Employment of Third-Country Nationals in the EU' <p>Chair: Ms Simona Ardo vino, Policy Officer, DG Migration and Home Affairs, European Commission</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Ms Michele Levoy, Director of the Platform for International Cooperation on Undocumented Migrants (PICUM) ★ Ms Sandrine Cazes, Senior Economist at the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) ★ Ms Astrid Tates, Senior Policy Officer at the Dutch Labour Inspectorate (SZW) <p>Questions & discussion</p>
16:20 – 17:00	Conclusions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Chair: Ms Simona Ardo vino, Policy Officer, DG Migration and Home Affairs, European Commission