

Welcome to the 3rd edition of the ELA Newsletter

I am delighted to share with you the third sample of our activities contributing to effective and fair labour mobility in the EU, covering the period from June 2023 to November 2023. We are still growing, but we are now at almost full operational capacity, trying to strengthen our practical support. Our goal is the same: to improve the situation on the ground for the benefit of individuals, workers, and employers to exercise the freedoms granted by the Single Market.

Cosmin Boiangiu, ELA Executive Director



Upcoming events: 21 November 2023 – February 2024

- Strategic foresight workshops on the 'Impact of labour market imbalances on EURES services' – 14 December and 27 February
- National events in Ireland and Portugal – 28-30 November
- Modular training for labour inspectors – 4-8 December
- National event in the Netherlands – 7 December
- Workshop on cooperation through the European Register for Road Transport Undertakings (ERRU) – 12 December
- Mutual learning and exchange on effective information provision in seasonal work – 12-13 December
- Webinar on tackling UDW in supply chains – January 2024
- HORECA workshop with social partners – January 2024
- Outreach event for social partners – January 2024
- Workshop: Ethical Issues in the Application of AI and Algorithms in Risk Assessment – 30-31 January
- Workshop: Analytical aspects of CJI – 23-24 January
- ELA TECH Conference – 31 January – 1 February
- Workshop on Third Country Nationals – 29 February 2024

ELA Conference 20 June 2023

The 2023 ELA Annual Conference focused on the Future of Labour Mobility in the EU, took place on the **20th of June 2023**. The conference featured

high-level speakers from EU institutions, social partners, public employment services, and research organizations to discuss the main challenges and opportunities for labour mobility in the context of recent developments and trends shaping the world of work, such as the twin transition to a green and digital economy and the ageing of population. The **future of labour mobility rules were discussed**, including the possible need for their revision in light of experience with their application, recent developments, and future trends. Furthermore, the second panel discussion looked at ways **how to facilitate labour mobility and fully tap its potential to respond to the tightening situation at the EU labour markets**. Panellists exchanged views on existing and future shortages and surpluses, measures to mitigate them, including by attracting third country nationals.

During the conference an award ceremony was included, to recognize the exemplary practices from various fields of labour mobility, such as seasonal work, road transport, and posting of workers. This ceremony was based on a call for good practices organised by ELA in 2022.

EU for Fair Construction campaign launched

The EU-wide information campaign, **#EU4FairConstruction was launched on 17 October 2023**, and will run with a support of EU Member States and social partner organisations in Q4 2023 and continue later in 2024.

The aim of the campaign is to ensure that information about the applicable legislation in the construction sector effectively reaches posted workers and their employers. In early 2023 ELA published a first **construction sector leaflet in all EU languages and 17 additional non-EU**

languages. During the campaign, ELA will inform workers and employers about the specific rights and obligations and provide materials and guidance on various topics related to the sector.

A package of **communication materials has been prepared for campaign partners**. Topics covered in the campaign materials are e.g. Posting of Workers, PDA1, actions before posting, working conditions, availability of information and subcontracting. The campaign will run via different channels both online – on ELA's campaign website, ELA's social media channels on YouTube – and offline on building sites, billboards and more. More information available at the [campaign website](#).



ELA expanding reach of local information

ELA is further intensifying its efforts to bring information on EU labour mobility legislation to those most affected.

In June, the Authority supported Germany and Poland in organising local information events for drivers and operators on both sides of the border. For a drivers' event on a truck stop close to BER airport, they partnered with the German advisory network Faire Mobilität to disseminate information on drivers' rights under Mobility Package I. With the strong support of the European Commission, national authorities and national social partners, **ELA welcomed about 50 operators at its information event in Slubice** the next day focussing on driving and resting time rules. The next stop of the roadshow will be Bucharest on 7 November where ELA will offer Romanian operators the opportunity to address their questions to representatives from the European Commission and national inspectorates.

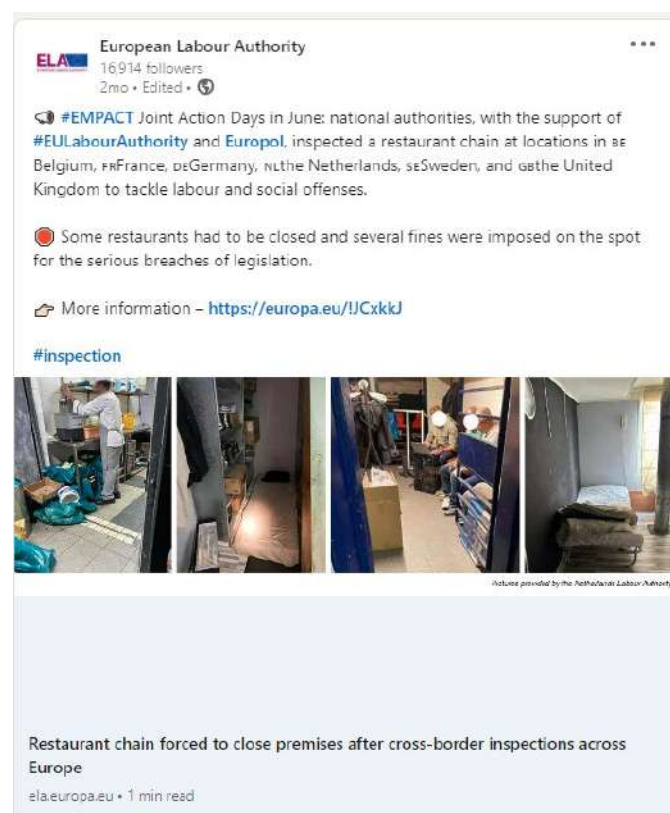
Having successfully established the roadshow format, in **October** the Authority will kick-off **another series of local events** bringing information on the posting of workers to employers in the construction sector. In addition, a special focus will be placed on the possibilities of the EURES portal to address labour shortages in the sector. The first event of that series will accompany the launch of ELA's new campaign #EU4FairConstruction on 17 October. ELA will host an information event in Brussels providing employers with insights into national posting requirements both in Belgium and the most frequent destinations for posted workers from the country, i.e. France, Germany, and the Netherlands. A similar format will take place on 2 November in Sofia providing a comprehensive view of EU legislation on the construction sector.

In 2024, both series will be continued in selected locations throughout the EU.

Week of Action: EMPACT – Agriculture, September 2023

ELA and Europol supported Europe - wide coordinated actions by national police and labour authorities against labour exploitation and other serious labour violations.

Cross-border cases were jointly inspected by labour authorities, coordinated and supported by ELA. **Bulgarian and Romanian officials participated in the inspections in Belgium** to help to check the working and living conditions of workers from Bulgaria and Romania active in the fruit sector. Simultaneous inspections were also carried out jointly by Belgian and Portuguese labour authorities to tackle illegal activities in the meat industry both in Belgium and Portugal.



Further information is available in the press release: <https://www.europol.europa.eu/media-press/newsroom/news/38-arrests-in-action-against-agricultural-labour-exploitation>.

Week of Action: Road transport, November 2023

Following a number of successful concerted and joint inspections in February and May, the European Labour Authority coordinated and supported cross-border inspections in road transport during 06-10 November Week of Action, in close cooperation with ROADPOL, under their framework for Truck and Bus Operations.

The **CJIs focused on a joint effort to enforce applicable EU road transport legislation**, aiming to address recurrent irregularities, enhance cooperation between national authorities and provide information to drivers on their rights and obligations.

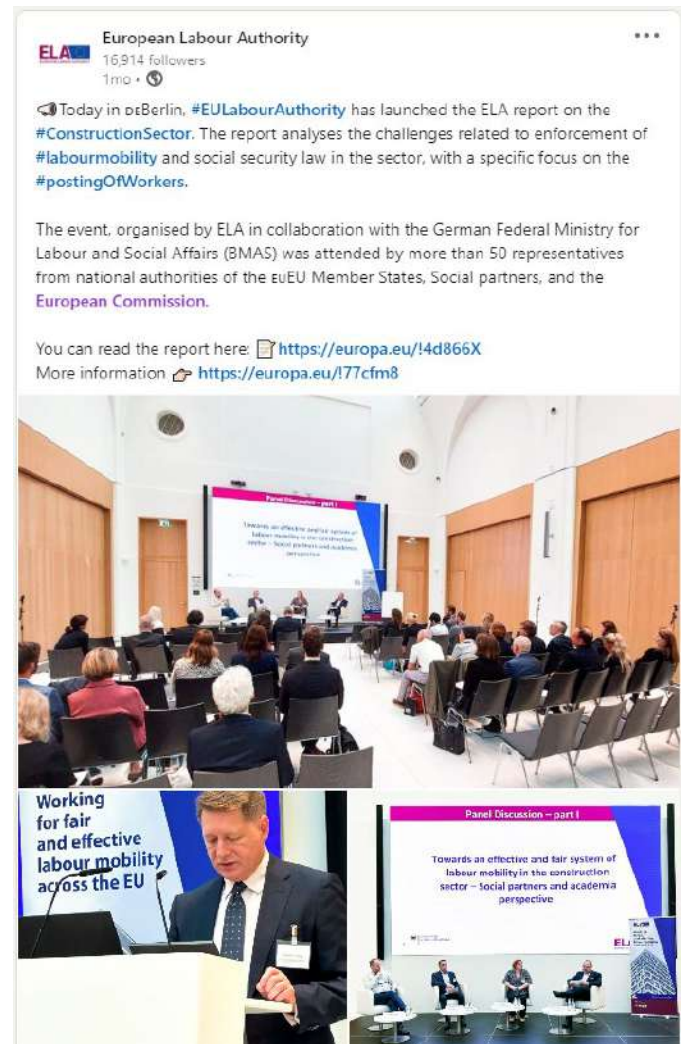
In total, **5 CJIs took place** in 3 hosting Member States (FR, BE, RO), with the participation of 7 observing Member States (BG, PL, HR, SW, SI, HR, BE).

ELA Report on Construction sector

On 25 September 2023, ELA released the [Report on Construction sector](#) detailing the results of a study conducted from October 2022 to May 2023 focusing on issues in information provision, enforcement of labour mobility law, social security coordination regulations, and cooperation between Member States. **The study identifies a number of shortcomings in enforcement and awareness raising activities as well as measures to overcome these shortcomings.** It also includes cross-border matching initiatives to address labour market imbalances in the sector. The findings of the study are significant for ELA as a guidance on how to improve its support to Member States in these activities.

The report was launched in an event hosted by the German Federal Ministry for Labour and Social Affairs in Berlin, which provided an opportunity to **collect feedback on the report** from national competent authorities, social partners, and academia and further discuss challenges

associated with labour mobility in the construction sector and ELA's role in enabling solutions.



ELA Report on Cooperation in the road transport sector

On October 2023, ELA published the Report on [Cooperation obligations and practices in the enforcement of EU rules on International Road Transport in the EU](#). The report provides practitioners from the Member States, the social partners and experts with an **overview of cross-border cooperation obligations, recommendations and possible activities to overcome challenges** in relation to the international road transport sector.

The report details operational conclusions in terms of actions to support national authorities and enforcement authorities in Member States, and to support cross-border cooperation between Member States.

The conclusions will be incorporated into the future ELA's activities related to cross-border cooperation in the road transport sector. Also, the report provided valuable input to ELA's [IMI-PROVE programme](#) dedicated to improving cooperation in different transport sectors.

ELA activities in the field of labour exploitation

ELA facilitated participation of labour inspectors at the **2023 EMPACT Hackathon focused on human trafficking for sexual and labour exploitation** that took place in Apeldoorn (The Netherlands) this September. During the three-day long operational action law enforcement officers checked 371 platforms for human trafficking activities. The Hackathon was conducted within the framework of EMPACT that serves as a platform for collaborative efforts in combating organised crimes, including human trafficking.

ELA together with the European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Training (CEPOL) is **organising a joint training on labour exploitation/labour law violations for labour inspectors** from the EU MSs. The training will take place in Larnaca, Cyprus from 14-15 of November. The training aims to increase awareness and capacity of labour inspectors to identify and refer cases of labour exploitation, with specific focus on mobile workers.

A promising first year of cooperation with sister Agencies

Mid 2022, ELA signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Eurofound, and in January 2023 with Cedefop.

With both sister Agencies, **operational Action Plans on joint activities have been agreed and**

implemented since. Representatives of both Agencies gave presentations to ELA staff to familiarise them with the mandate and activities. With Eurofound, discussions on a variety of topics took place (e.g. labour market information, minimum wages, virtual labour mobility etc.). Eurofound colleagues actively contributed to ELA events (e.g. capacity building, EURES training, Platform tackling undeclared work) and a joint event on labour shortages and surplus was organised.

With Cedefop, the agreed cooperation centres around web intelligence on vacancies and skills. Scoping of bilateral business requirements has been finalised, and activities on organising and piloting data exchange, including data protection issues, are ongoing, with first results expected by the end of 2023. ELA is looking forward to continuing these cooperations in 2024!



Agencies event Skills, skills, skills in EP, September 2023

On 20 September 2023, the five EU agencies in the field of employment and social affairs (Cedefop, Eurofound, EU-OSHA, the ETF and ELA) in cooperation with the European Parliament and the

European Commission, held a **conference focusing on the European Year of Skills**. The conference aimed to share their complementary labour market and skills intelligence and to discuss with key stakeholders the challenges and opportunities involved in tackling labour and skills shortages.

The speakers from the Agencies presented their **vision for the future of skills** in Europe and how they can contribute to people's well-being, competitiveness, sustainability, and social cohesion. They also addressed the skills needs and gaps in the context of the green and digital transition, as well as the health and safety aspects of education and training.

The event provided the unique opportunity for expert discussions with MEPs from different political groups and other stakeholders on the topic of skills. **The discussions focused on how to get the right balance between skills supply and demand**, how to anticipate future skills needs, how to ensure fair, just, healthy and safe working conditions for all, and how to promote a global approach to skills and education. The event took place in the European Parliament in Brussels and was streamed online.

The Executive Director Cosmin Boiangiu and Irene Mandl, Head of Information and EURES Unit, represented ELA as speakers. More information and a summary of the event can be found here: <https://www.ela.europa.eu/en/skills-skills-skills>

ELA Database of Experts – call for expression of interest

On June 2023, ELA launched the Call for expression of interest for the purpose of setting up a Database of Experts, who may be requested by the Authority to provide services related to capacity building training and other activities in the fields covered by ELA's mandate. Such activities will include the **preparation and delivery of specialised trainings, and of customised training programmes and learning resources**. The validity

period of the database is two years from the date of [publication of this call for expression of interest on ELA website](#).

The call is open to natural persons, both academics and practitioners with relevant experience in the fields of activity within ELA's remit. ELA staff, members or alternates of ELA's Management Board, or employees of any EU Institution, agency or body are not eligible for this call. The Authority will provide an expert fee and reimbursement for travel and accommodation (if applicable).

ELA TECH Conference: call for papers

In July, ELA launched a call for papers **on innovative digital solutions using artificial intelligence (AI) to support fair and effective labour mobility** across the European Union. AI, and related technologies, is one of the key drivers of digital transformation and has the potential to improve the quality, accessibility and user experience provided to citizens when searching for information and services related to labour mobility. AI can also improve how data and information is analysed to find trends and provide insights, providing national authorities new perspectives for better decision making.

ELA wants to bring together **innovative ideas, solutions, tools and best practices on the usage of AI technology**. The deadline for submissions is set on for the 31st of October. Selected papers will be presented at the **ELA TECH Conference which will take place January 31 and February 1**.

ELA aims to promote and exchange best practices between Member States in the application of AI in the context of labour mobility digitalisation. The TECH conference intends to bring together all relevant stakeholders to share knowledge, expertise and experience, and to identify new trends, developments and best practices in the field of labour mobility and AI.

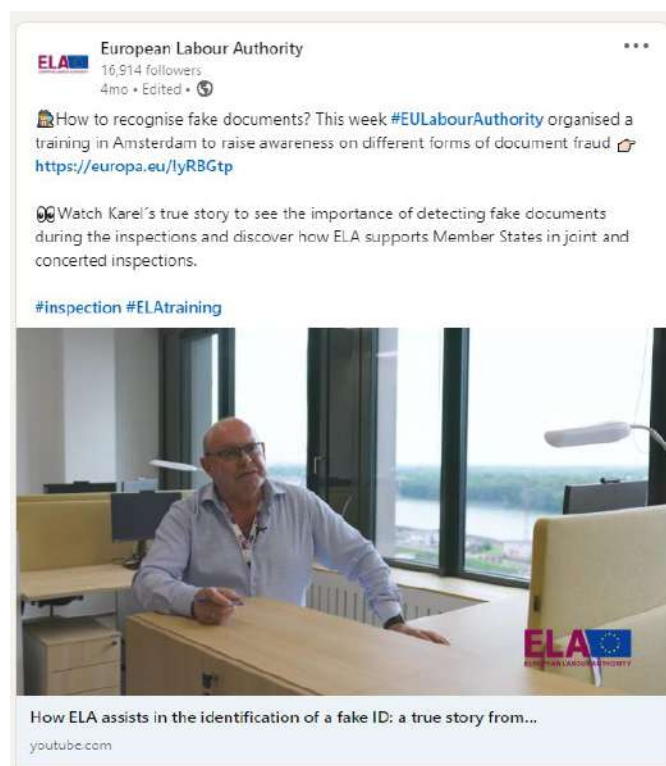
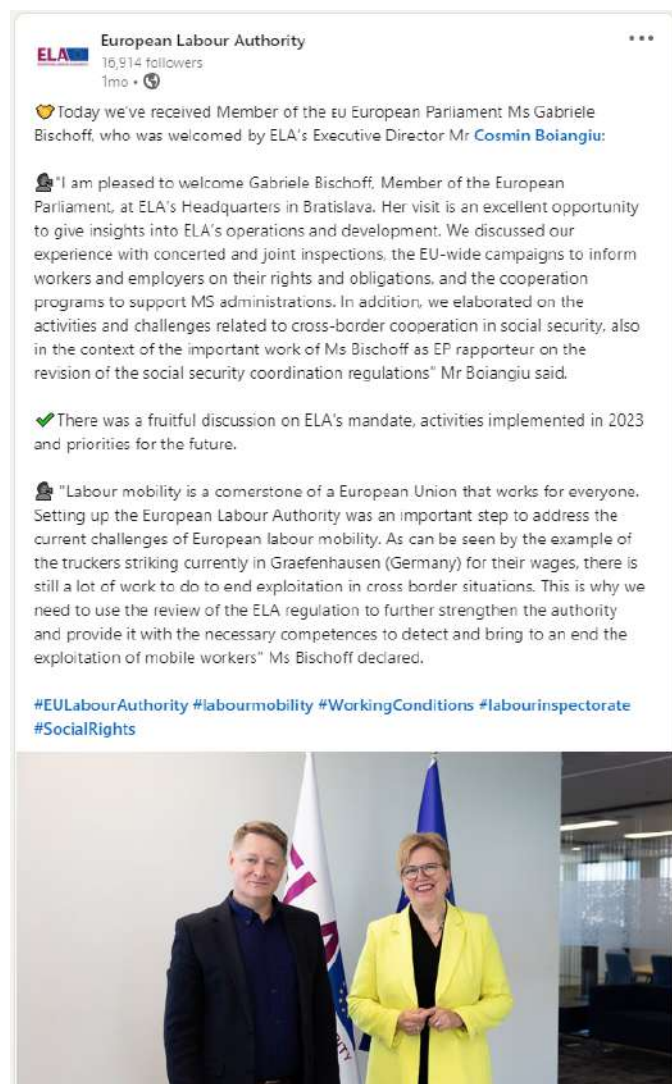
Read more in depth information here:

<https://www.ela.europa.eu/en/call-papers-ela-2023>

More from ELA on Social Media

In this section, we would like to bring you further information, and showcase content, which harbored **most interest** on our social media (specifically LinkedIn).

When you click on the individual images, you will be redirected to the post itself.



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- [Awareness of labour mobility services: ELA releases a new report](#)