



NORDIC AND BAL TIC UNDECLARED WORK PROJECT 2019-2020  
WORK GROUP COOPERATION  
**SOCIAL PARTNERS SEMINAR, COPENHAGEN 10<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2019**

**Welcome** to this seminar where we have invited representatives from social partners in the construction sector to meet the labour inspectorates. Countries involved are Estonia, Latvia, Finland, Sweden, Denmark, Norway and Iceland. *The aim of the seminar is to share good practice, establish network and promote future cooperation.*

The seminar is one of the activities under the Nordic project for fighting undeclared work. A project run by the Nordic labour inspectorates and financed by the EU-commission and where Latvia and Estonia also are included as partners. Other activities are to encourage and perform joint inspections, a seminar for other relevant authorities, preventive information activities and a workgroup focused on building knowledge and effect-evaluation.

We will stay at Hotel Wakeup Copenhagen and the seminar will be held at the premises of the Danish Labour Inspection in Copenhagen; Landskronagade 33.

We meet at the hotel lobby **08.15** for transport to the venue.

### **Agenda**

09.00-09.15	Welcome
09.15-10.30	Presentation of good practices from all countries
10.30-10.45	Break
10.45-12.00	Groups, discussion of example case
12.00-13.00	Lunch at the venue (included)
13.00-14.30	Presenting the outcome of group work
14.30-14.45	Break
14.45-16.00	Presentation of a good example and plenary discussions
16.00-16.15	Sum up, conclusions and end of seminar

### **Group discussions**

We divide into three cross-national groups: Workers organisations, employers organisations and labour inspectorates.

### **Case for discussion**

For several years, there have been plans to secure the availability of hotel rooms and conference rooms in Copenhagen with a brand-new hotel and conference building. This since the shortage has been alarming and the whole tourist sector together with local politicians have stressed that there is a risk that the city and region will lose in attractiveness if it continues.

In the end, however, the geographical location chosen was Fælledparken with its central yet scenic location. The City of Copenhagen has awarded the contract to one of the biggest construction firms in the country, with the hope that this will guarantee both quality and speed in the process and for once completion on planned budget. The timetable was of importance for the deciding politicians. It would be great if the new buildings would be ready for use when Copenhagen hosts the European Championship in Football 2020. There has been quite a lot of interest from foreign construction firms as well – as the project also involves roads and other types of constructions needed. A consortium has been formed to handle all projects.

A large-scale project like this often brings with it the risk of both undeclared work – and of course illegal/unlawful provision of goods and services. Both different authorities and social partners would need to collaborate in a structured way to effectively combat undeclared work AND aspects that more fall into the parts of society that can be defined as happening within the shadow economy.

Undeclared Work (UDW): any paid activities that are lawful as regards their nature but not declared to public authorities, taking account of differences in the regulatory systems of the Member States

Shadow economy: the shadow economy includes both undeclared work as well as broader criminal activities. (includes the provision of goods and services that are themselves unlawful, e.g., the production or trafficking of illegal drugs, human trafficking or money laundering forbidden by law).

Taking the example above as a start for discussion of what kind of challenges would arise – the negative effects for the individual workers, companies and society as a whole – what would be possible ways of collaborating. The first point of departure should be according to the situation today – the second: what would be needed for an even better more enhanced co-operation? Questions for discussion in groups are:

### **Labour inspectorates**

1. What kind of information, and activity, would be useful from the side of social partners?
2. How can information be given/channelled to you?
3. How can you give feedback to the social partners? (General feedback and/or specific feedback)
4. How do you, today, include the social partners in your work, and maintain continuous reciprocal/mutual communication to fight undeclared work?
5. What kind of cooperation between authorities and social partners would be more effective to fight undeclared work? Think BIG and CREATIVE.

### **Social partners**

1. What kind of information can you give to the authorities?
2. What would be the best way/channels for you to give such information to the authorities?
3. How important is feedback from the authorities for you?
4. What kind of activities, cooperation activities do your organisations perform today to fight undeclared work?
5. What kind of cooperation between authorities and social partners would be more effective to fight undeclared work? Think BIG and CREATIVE.