

KOMISJA EUROPEJSKA DG ds. Zatrudnienia, Spraw Społecznych i Włączenia Społecznego



Project VS/2019/0025

"EWC – processing financial information as a key factor for effective communication and negotiation"

co financed by European Union and National Commission of NSZZ "Solidarność"

- Budget Heading: 04.03 01 05,
 programme VP/2018/002: Information and training measures for workers'
 organisations;
- Duration of the project : from 1.02.2019 till 31.12.2020

Partnership

- <u>Leader</u>: National Commission of NSZZ "Solidarność"
- <u>Co-applicants</u>: CISL (Italy), UGT (Spain), Podkrepa (Bulgaria), Syndex Polska (Poland).
- Associated organisations:

European Branch Federations - IndustriAll, UNI, EFFAT;

Trade Unions: NHS (HR), CSDR (RO), KSS (MK);

Employers' organisation: POLBISCO (PL), Browary (PL)

Main project idea

Help EWCs to be better partners for management through passing from information to consultation stage through:

- understanding economic issues;
- learning how to use financial information;
- passing on the information received to their constituents.

Main project objective

To work out a mechanism of handling information and to develop skills on how to retrieve, use, interpret and pass on financial and confidential information, linking it with national/local levels.

Specific objectives

- Develop guidelines on handling financial & confidential information in the context of stock & trade secrets and other legal regulations.
- Specify confidentiality in terms of its content and time of limitation.
- Know the rules regulating internal exchange and sharing processed financial/confidential information without harming any interests.
- Promote good practices on project issues.

Project structure

- 2 directly linked components:
- Expert based on the expert network, desk research, national consultation meetings in each partner country;
- Training based on the new training module:
- ✓ 6 international training sessions for EWC members (in Italy, in Romania, in Poland 2, in Spain, in Bulgaria).

Project bodies

- The Steering Group (4 meetings);
- An expert network (Partner experts, researchers and practitioners – EWC members);
- Trainers developing a training module and running training courses.

Steering Group and expert network - area of activity

Help EWC members to link received financial/confidential information with national/local levels by:

- Desk research on national legal regulations and good practices;
- Verification of conclusions from desk research during national consultation meetings;
- Verification and validation of the final project report prepared for 3 target groups:
- > EWC and TU members;
- legislative bodies from partners countries;
- > EC, ETUC and European Branch Federations.

Expert component – activities

- Analysis of materials collected by the project network and discussed at the 4 SG meetings – in the context of the needs of target groups: EWC & TU members; legislative bodies from partners countries; EC, European Branch Federations, ETUC.
- Desk research from 7 countries benchmarking analysis of confidentiality.
- 7 national consultation meetings consultation of conclusions from desk research and discussion of potential changes in legal regimes with national stakeholders.
- Report supporting EWC members in efficient handling of information.
- 1 conference promoting the project results.

Training component – activities:

- Training module helping how to read financial documents regarding confidentiality;
- 6 bilateral training sessions teaching present and future EWC members practical understanding and handling IRFS as a strategic instrument of EWC, reading financial documents, dealing with confidential information.

Run in 5 countries: 2 in Poland (PL/MK, PL/HR), 1 in Italy, 1 in Romania, 1 in Spain, 1 in Bulgaria.

Expected results

- 1. Report with information verifying to what extent the protection of information affects the implementation of the objectives of the I&C Directives comprising:
- benchmarking analysis of confidentiality in 7 EU States,
- conclusions of desk research of national legal regimes in 7 countries (in the context of I&C directives),
- basic framework for defining confidentiality,
- set of priorities on exchange of financial information,
- guidelines for EWC members on how to handle confidential information.

Expected results – cont.

- 2. 2 reports from the testing of communication procedure (in the food and metal sectors);
- 3. New training module for EWC members;
- 4. 108 present and future EWC members trained;
- 5. Conference to promote and disseminate the project results;
- 6. Better economic knowledge of EWC members thanks to reports and training materials disseminated within the partners' structures.

Summary

- Expert analysis of national legal regimes on transfering of information in the context of EU I&C Directives.
- National consultation meetings to discuss potential changes in legal regimes to fully utilize the potential of I&C Directives in terms of transfer of information.
- Testing communication procedure to check its operation in practice and what kind of benefits it provides.
- Bilateral training for better practical understanding/reading financial documents and handling confidential information.
- Report with the mechanism developing skills on how to retrieve, use and pass on financial/confidential information for EWC members.

Next actions for SG members

- 1. Signing of partnership agreements asap!!!
- 2. Tender for National Legal Expert (NLE) from HR, RO, MK (NLEs from PL, IT, ES, BG are members of the Project Staff) <u>Vill 30.04.2019</u>;
- 3. Preparation for 2nd SG & NLEs meeting on methodology of desk research and tasks for NLEs till 27.05.2019;
- 4. 2nd SG & NLEs meeting 27–28.05.2019;
- 5. Desk research by NLEs on national legal regulations- from 28.05. till 29.07.2019;
- 6. National consultation meeting between 1.08. and 15.11.2019.

NLEs tasks

Desk research issues on national legal regulations:

- differences between I&C Directives and national legal regulations in terms of transfer of information,
- methods for gathering economic information including confidential information,
- definition of confidentiality at the national level in the context of ECJ law cases,
- subjects allowed to handle confidential information (apart from EWC),
- sanctions for EWC members for disclosing confidential information to unauthorized persons;
- relation confidential information to trade secrets, stock requirements, legal requirements to clarify how the legal system regulates confidentiality including its content and time of limitation in view of company's interests.

Thank you for your attention

Maria Żytko – Project Coordinator

m.zytko@solidarnosc.org.pl