



Fair working conditions: exploring the contribution of cooperation initiatives between Social Partners and Labour INspection authorities

SPLIN is a two-year European research project dealing with the role of social partner institutions in inspecting and enforcing labour standards in two sectors, the construction industry and maritime shipping.

Safeguarding labour standards by co-enforcement

Traditional labour inspectorates' and social partners' instruments to generate and enforce labour standards seem to be limited when unlawful business strategies deprive workers of their rights; or when complex and transnational business models exploit regulatory loopholes and spoil fair competition. Hence, strategic and innovative practices are necessary to make the enforcement of labour standards more effective, especially in sectors with a high incidence of precarious employment and noncompliance. SPLIN scrutinizes two different types of measures:

- *Co-enforcement actions*, defined as ongoing coordinated efforts of labour inspectorates and social partners to jointly enforce labour standards
- *Transnational trade union enforcement action*, defined as coordinated efforts led by a transnational trade union to develop and enforce labour standards, implemented in cooperation with national and local trade unions.

Construction and maritime shipping

SPLIN focuses on two different sectors, construction and transport. It analyses enforcement activities in these two sectors, bringing forward collaborative strategies to safeguard labour and social standards, and promote fair working conditions. SPLIN involves social partners and labour inspectorates from Austria, Spain and Poland as well as a transnationally operating trade union (ITF) taking an active role in this endeavour.

Research steps

Methodologically, SPLIN applies a combination of research and information exchange.

First, SPLIN analyses and compares cases of co-enforcement initiatives developed in three highly different national institutional contexts (AT, ES and PL) and one sector (construction); as well as the implementation of the ITF inspector network in maritime shipping in three different countries (ES, FI and PL).

Second, SPLIN assesses the transferability of research outcomes through an action research approach to other regions, sectors and countries in a range of stakeholder workshops at national and EU-level.

Third, SPLIN disseminates research findings and workshop outcomes to a wider audience and will formulate policy recommendations for future and strategic cooperation between labour inspectorates and social partners.

Consortium

FORBA is project leader of SPLIN. Research partners are Notus (ESP), University of Jyväskylä (FI) and the Institute for Public Affairs (PL).

The research is conducted in close cooperation with the associated partners, the Construction Workers' Holiday and Severance Payment Fund (BUAK, AT), BUDOWLANI trade union (PL) and Fundacion Laboral de la Construcción des Principado de Asturias (flc, ESP).

For further and detailed information about SPLIN, please visit the project website <http://splin.forba.at/>



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