

Tackling social dumping

Belgium

GENERAL INFORMATION	
Name of the organisation	BTB-ABVV
Type of organisation	Social Partner
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Member State	Belgium
GOOD PRACTICE - GENERAL INFORMATION	
Title of the good practice	Tackling social dumping
Topic of the good practice	Information provision in Road Transport
Geographical focus	Nation-wide
Duration	2010-current
Summary of the good practice	BTB-ABVV is a Belgian trade union that has been actively fighting against social dumping since 2008. BTB-ABVV's strategy to end social dumping has evolved significantly over the years, becoming more comprehensive and multifaceted. Initially, BTB-ABVV focused on raising awareness about social dumping by publishing several black books on the topic and establishing themselves as the specialists in the field. They provided information to government bodies, politicians, and national labour authorities, becoming first point of contact for these entities.

	As their strategy evolved, BTB-ABVV began to develop a more proactive approach. They started conducting workshops for national labour authorities and participating in roadside inspections carried out by Belgian authorities. They also took part in ELA roadshows in Bulgaria and Romania, further expanding their reach and influence. In recent years, BTB-ABVV has focused on directly engaging with truck drivers through campaigns designed to inform them about their rights and the correct use of tachographs to claim the right pay, and the get them familiarised with the new regulations in the road transport field, especially after adoption of the Mobility package I. These campaigns involve going out on the road to talk to and inform truck drivers, distributing informational booklets, and setting up information points at various locations such as parking areas and logistic hubs. This direct engagement has been a key element in their strategy to fight against social dumping. Overall, BTB-ABVV's strategy has evolved from raising awareness and providing information to actively engaging with truck drivers and collaborating with national and European authorities to enforce regulations and improve working conditions.
OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES	
Background/context	The practice addresses the issue of social dumping in the road transport sector. Social dumping occurs when companies employ workers from low-wage countries to reduce labour costs, often resulting in poor working conditions. A significant challenge in this context is the lack of knowledge among truck drivers about regulations in road transport. This lack of awareness can lead to infringements and undermine the drivers' rights, making them more vulnerable to exploitation and unfair treatment.
Objectives	▶ To end social dumping in the European road transport industry; ▶ To inform truck drivers on key aspects of Mobility Package I, including rights, obligations, and fair working conditions;

	▶ To educate truck drivers about how to correctly use their tachograph.
Main activities	▶ Workshops and Roadshows: BTB-ABVV conducts workshops for national labour authorities which aim to educate and inform authorities about the issue of social dumping and the strategies to combat it. For example, BTB-ABVV provided a workshop for the French national labour authorities under the umbrella of the European Labour Authority last year. BTB-ABVV actively participates in roadside inspections carried out by Belgian authorities. These inspections are part of their broader strategy to ensure compliance with regulations and to combat social dumping. Additionally, BTB-ABVV has participated in ELA roadshows in Bulgaria and Romania, where they conduct workshops and provide information to truck drivers about their rights and the correct use of tachographs. These activities are part of BTB-ABVV's comprehensive strategy to fight social dumping in the road transport sector by educating both authorities and truck drivers, ensuring compliance with regulations, and advocating for better working conditions. ▶ Informational Booklets: They have developed and distributed booklets in multiple languages to inform truck drivers about the correct use of tachographs, their rights, and how to check their pay slips. ▶ Truck Drivers Info Points: BTB-ABVV has set up tents and flags at various locations, such as parking areas and logistic hubs, to provide information and distribute booklets to drivers. ▶ Providing support to drivers in filing complaints: BTB-ABVV has assisted drivers who want to file a case to be paid correctly by providing them with the necessary guidance and documentation. They help truck drivers understand what information they need to collect, such as proof of where and how long they worked, and under which contract etc. BTB-ABVV emphasizes the importance of correctly using digital tachographs. They educate drivers on how to use their tachographs

	properly to build up a case. If drivers use their tachographs correctly, they can document their working time and driving time, which is crucial for filing complaints. ► Digital Tools: The campaign also uses digital tools, such as social media and websites, to disseminate information and engage with truck drivers.
Did you previously provide information about this particular good practice under the European Platform tackling undeclared work? (if yes, is it possible to provide the year and the title of good practice or a link of the good practice in ELA Virtual library)	No.
Funding/organisational resources	This practice is funded by membership fees and involves collaboration between various departments within BTB-ABVV. It has about 20 employees actively working in the various activities of this practices across seven regions in Belgium.
PARTICIPATION	
Stakeholders involved	► National labour authorities ► Government bodies and decision makers ► European Transport Workers' Federation (ETF) ► European Labour Authority (ELA)
Target groups	Truck drivers
Final beneficiaries	► Employers of the informed drivers ► Road transport operators ► Enforcement authorities ► Stakeholders in the road transport industry
GOOD PRACTICE CRITERIA	

Achievements/ Results and outcomes (Alignment of good practice with the priorities of the Call (if not applicable, alignment with the field of EU labour mobility)	► Increased awareness and knowledge: BTB-ABVV has successfully raised awareness among truck drivers about their rights and the correct use of tachographs. This has empowered drivers to better understand and claim their entitlements, leading to improved working conditions. ► Workshops and Roadshows: - Workshops for national labour authorities; - Participated in 2 roadshows organised by ELA. ► Informational Materials: BTB-ABVV has developed and distributed informational booklets in multiple languages to inform truck drivers about the correct use of tachographs, their rights, and how to check their pay slips. Available here: https://tinyurl.com/urenboekje-btb ► Support for Drivers: BTB-ABVV has provided support to drivers who have been victims of social dumping or exploitation. They have helped drivers file complaints and provided necessary documentation to build cases against employers who violate labour law. They were successful in 5 cases involving a dozen of drivers per company involved.
Recognition (has this good practice been recognised on regional, national or EU level)	BTB-ABVV provides crucial information to government bodies and politicians, becoming the first point of contact for these entities on the topic of social dumping. Their role as a key information provider has been acknowledged and valued by these stakeholders.
Cost effectiveness (the degree to which the practice was successful in reaching objectives and producing clear and measurable outcomes at the lowest possible cost)	The practice has been successful in reaching its objectives and producing measurable outcomes at a low cost.
Transferability (how the experience from this practice could be transferred to other contexts i.e. what would another Member State/group/sector need to have or put in place for this measure to be successful in their country/group/sector)	The experience from this practice can be transferred to other Member States or sectors by developing similar informational campaigns, conducting workshops, and engaging in social dialogue.

Sustainability (how the practice is sustainable from a social, financial or environmental perspective)	► Financial Sustainability: These campaigns are primarily funded by membership fees, which provides a stable and continuous source of funding ensuring financial sustainability. ► Organisational Sustainability: Organisational structure of BTB-ABVV ensures that campaigns focused on truck drivers have the necessary human resources to sustain its activities. ► Long-term Commitment: These campaigns have been ongoing for almost 10 years, demonstrating BTB-ABVV's long-term commitment to tackling social dumping. This sustained effort has built trust among truck drivers and established BTB-ABVV as a reliable source of support and information. ► Recognition and Influence: The recognition and influence of BTB-ABVV by various stakeholders, including ELA and national labour authorities, further contribute to the sustainability of the campaign. This recognition strengthens BTB-ABVV's ability to advocate for better working conditions and ensures that their efforts are supported and valued by key stakeholders.
Innovativeness (innovative features of the good practice)	The practice is innovative in its approach to tackling social dumping in the road transport sector.
Digitalisation (Design, development and/or utilisation of digital tools, policies or plans for digitalisation, business processes and data digitalisation, data sharing digital initiatives, the use of digitalisation to facilitate the access to data in real time and detection of fraud and error, etc.)	The practice utilizes digital tools such as social media and websites to disseminate information and engage with truck drivers. It also promotes the correct use of digital tachographs to ensure fair pay for drivers.