Electronic exchange of data
Slovakia

GENERAL INFORMATION	
Name of the organisation	Sociálna poisťovňa
Type of organisation	Social Security Organisation
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Member State	Slovakia
GOOD PRACTICE - GENERAL INFORMATION	
Title of the good practice	Electronic exchange of data between the Social Insurance Agency (SIA) and the Czech Social Security Administration (CSSA)
Topic of the good practice	Digitalisation in Social Security Coordination
Geographical focus	Cross-country (please specify) Data exchange between Slovakia and Czechia
Duration	Ongoing since January 2022
Summary of the good practice	By means of the data exchange mechanism introduced between Slovakia and Czechia, the Slovak Social Insurance Agency abolished the requirement of an annual life certificate from pensioners residing in Czechia.
OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES	
Background/context	Prior to 2021, pensioners living in Czechia had to submit an annual Life Certificate form to the Slovak Social Insurance Agency. This involved the agency mailing the

form to the pensioner, who then needed to complete it according to the specifications and secure a witness endorsement from a professional. Finally, the pensioner needed to mail the completed form back. Once received, the agency needed to manually record the receipt of the form in the system in order to ensure the renewed entitlement to the pension.

However, several challenges arose, such as forms not being delivered due to wrong addresses, forms arriving incomplete, or completed forms not reaching the agency.

These challenges rendered the process more bureaucratic and time consuming for the agency.

Objectives	The agency needed a different way to confirm pensioners' statuses while speeding up the process, reducing administrative duties, and lowering paper usage to decrease its carbon footprint.
Main activities	The Slovak and Czech authorities have negotiated an agreement to exchange data on mutual pensioners monthly. This data exchange verifies whether pension beneficiaries are still living. With effect from 1 January 2022, in accordance with the Agreement on Electronic Data Exchange between the Social Insurance Agency and the Czech Social Security Administration, both institutions started to exchange data on living of pension beneficiaries electronically. The electronic exchange of these data replaced the paper form and delivery of certificates of living, thereby reducing the administrative burden on pensioners and eliminating the risk of unjustified payment of benefits. Since 16 June 2022, the next phase of the project has been launched. The Social Insurance Agency receives from the Czech Social Security Administration also other information electronically in the field of pension insurance (e.g. pension amount, type of pension, type and amount of deduction from pension benefit, and similar). In order to set up this project, both institutions adopted an automated software check (identification algorithm) which captures the data about mutual pensioners and classifies

	the data in pre-defined categories (Alive, Deceased or Not Identified). The data transfer is effected via the European Union's secure TestaNG network thus ensuring protection of data.
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	National funding.
PARTICIPATION	
Stakeholders involved	Sociálna poisťovňa Česká správa sociálního zabezpečení
Target groups	Pension beneficiaries
Final beneficiaries	Pensioners, National institutions
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)	This initiative is an innovative tool which helps reduce manual intervention from beneficiaries through digitalisation, curbs fraud and error, whilst at the same time safeguarding the environment by reducing paper documentation.
Recognition (has this good practice been recognised on regional, national or EU level)	The practice has not been recognised on regional or EU level.
Cost effectiveness (the degree to which the practice was successful in reaching objectives and producing clear and measurable outcomes at the lowest possible cost)	Reduction of costs for pensioners as no signature verification required. Reduction of administrative costs to implement the life certification system by the institutions.

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)	This cooperation can be replicated between any other Member State as long as they are able to exchange information via electronic exchange.
Sustainability (how the practice is sustainable from a social, financial or environmental perspective)	Sustainability is ensured by regular update and adaptation to changing legislative and technological requirements.
Innovativeness (innovative features of the good practice)	This system was designed to automate the life certification process in order to replace the previous manual life certification system for the benefit of pensioners and institutions alike. The system offers also the possibility of future online exchange of information also with other foreign institutions. However, such an agreement is subject to the conclusion of a mutual information exchange agreement between the foreign institutions concerned.
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 system is entirely based on the optimal use of digital tools to replace outdated business process which required manual intervention. The system operates on the basis of encrypted data which is exchanged in real time between the competent authorities thus rendering the system more efficient whilst also reducing cases of fraudulent activity of unreported information of pension recipients.