



ETF launches bus and coach project to empower trade unions to improve driver pay and working conditions in an ever-changing market

WHY?

A 2018 ETF report on working conditions in the bus and coach sector revealed that drivers struggle with low pay levels and extensive working hours, impacting the industry's attractiveness as a career – young people are less inclined to join with the average age of bus and coach drivers being over 45 in most European countries. The pandemic further challenged workers as it brought the sector to a halt.

Guaranteeing good wages and adequate working conditions, fully in line with the law, is the only way to revive bus and coach services in Europe in a socially and economically sustainable manner.

The future attractiveness of the profession depends on how social partners tackle post-pandemic developments through Collective Labour Agreements.

THE AIM

In January 2021, the ETF started an eighteen-month EU-funded project on social conditions in bus and coach, supported by EVA Akademie:

- To develop solid know-how on social conditions and collective bargaining agreements in bus and coach.
- To enable trade unions to have the right responses in safeguarding drivers' pay and conditions in an ever-changing post-pandemic market.



With financial support from the EU

HOW?

Through research and targeted interviews with trade unions and bus and coach operators, the ETF supported by the wmp consult institute will produce:

- A comparative study on collective labour agreements and domestic market trends covering several EU Member States: Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Denmark, France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Slovakia, Spain and Sweden
- An overview of key developments in the international bus and coach market

Based on these findings, the ETF will develop a toolkit including an overview of the most common work-related problems experienced by bus and coach drivers and best practices and guidance on addressing these problems via CBA negotiations.

Building this know-how will empower trade unions to engage in collective bargaining negotiations and use best practices revealed by the findings as markets develop, including beyond the COVID-19 impact.

MAIN PROJECT ACTIVITIES

To ensure in-depth input in the project outcomes, the ETF will organise three country-group workshops. A final conference will ensure the dissemination of project results.

CONTACT BOX

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