

**BERLIN**



# AGENDA

## FIGHTING LABOUR EXPLOITATION —

**For decent work in Europe**

International conference  
on 8 November 2024 in Berlin

<b>ORGANISER</b>	Senate Department for Labour, Social Services, Gender Equality, Integration, Diversity and Anti-Discrimination (SenASGIVA), Berlin
<b>VENUE</b>	Tagungswerk, Lindenstraße 85, 10969 Berlin on-site and with livestream
<b>MODERATION</b>	Dr Julia Kropf
<b>LANGUAGES</b>	We will provide simultaneous translation into English, German and German Sign Language during the conference.
<b>DIALOGUE FORUM</b>	Join the dialogue! Parallel to the ongoing programme, various organisations working on the topic of labour exploitation will be available for discussion in the foyer. You can find further information on the last page of the programme.
<b>EXHIBITION</b>	Learn more about those affected by labour exploitation in an exhibition of personal reports developed by the Service Agency against Labour Exploitation, Forced Labour and Human Trafficking together with those affected.

#GegenArbeitsausbeutung  
#FightingLabourExploitation



# ABSTRACT

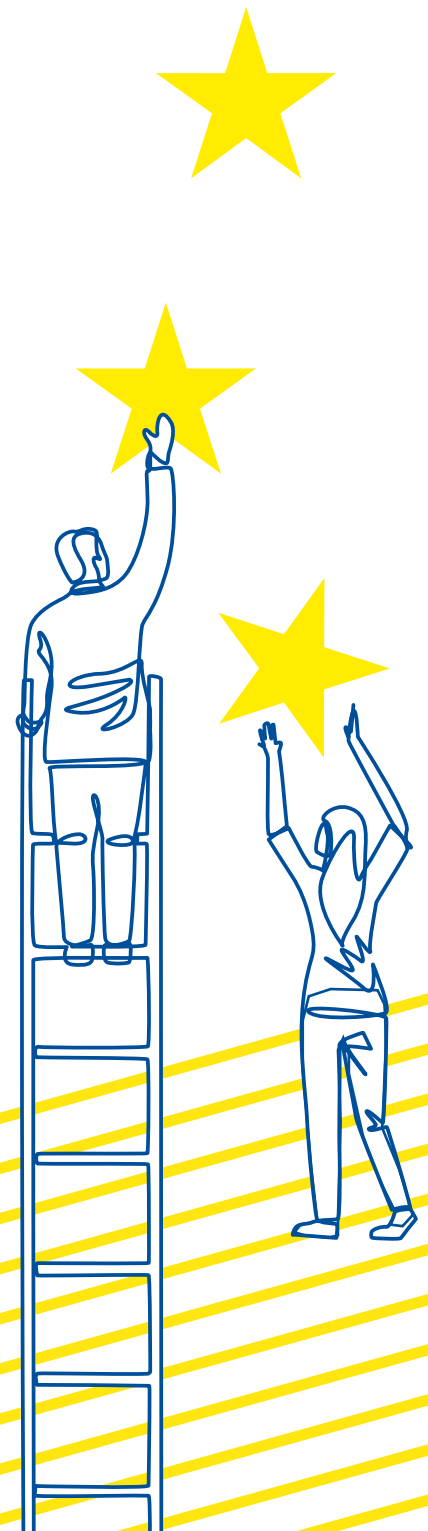
Within the European Union, citizens are free to choose their place of work and must be treated equally to nationals of the member states in which they work.

This free movement of labour is a fundamental right and a central pillar of the European Union. However, in addition to its many advantages, it also bears the risk of labour exploitation – especially EU citizens from Eastern European countries are among the victims.

Labour exploitation is also a reality in Germany and Berlin – in our midst. Exploitative working conditions systematically undermine fundamental social achievements such as minimum wages, sick pay, protection against dismissal, social security contributions and occupational health and safety. A lack of knowledge of language and law as well as social isolation can prevent those affected from leaving these inhumane work situations.

People are often willing to accept working conditions that fall short of EU standards but are still better than the poverty and unemployment from which they come – or they are deliberately recruited with false promises. In short, labour exploitation involves serious criminal offences and violates the labour and human rights of those affected.

In order to explore how labour exploitation can be better combated and decent work secured, the state of Berlin, represented by the Senate Department for Labour, Social Services, Gender Equality, Integration, Diversity and Anti-Discrimination (SenASGIVA), is hosting an international conference. The exchange between politics, science and practice focuses on positive examples of concepts and measures for protection against labour exploitation. The aim of the conference is to share challenges and solutions across borders.



# PROGRAMME



9.00 am

ARRIVAL ON-SITE or ONLINE

9.30-10.00 am

OPENING OF THE CONFERENCE

- **GREETING MESSAGE**  
**Kai Wegner**, Governing Mayor of Berlin
- **WELCOME and INTRODUCTION**  
**Cansel Kiziltepe**, Senator for Labour, Social Services, Gender Equality, Integration, Diversity and Anti-Discrimination, Berlin

10.00-10.45 am

STRUCTURES and DIMENSIONS OF LABOUR EXPLOITATION

Keynote by ...

**Dr Jan Cremers**, Independent expert on the Management Board of the European Labour Authority (ELA) and visiting scholar at Tilburg Law School, Netherlands

**What strategies does Europe have?**

In dialogue with **Gaby Bischoff**, Member of the European Parliament

10.45-11.00 am

COFFEE BREAK

11.00-11.30 am

PERSPECTIVES OF THOSE AFFECTED

In conversation with ...

- **Kateryna Danilova**, Sector Coordinator & Consultant, European Migrant Workers Union & Fair Mobility
- **Sascha Lübbe**, Journalist and author of the book “At the bottom of the system”
- **Alia Schwelling**, Forced Labour Officer, Berlin Advice Centre for Migration and Decent Work (BEMA)

# PROGRAMME

11.30 am-12.30 pm

**PANEL DISCUSSION: Together against labour exploitation - for fair and decent work**

- **Dr Cosmin Boian**giu, Executive Director European Labour Authority (ELA)
- **Dr Kari Johnstone**, Special Representative and Coordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings of the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE)
- **Cansel Kiziltepe**, Senator SenASGIVA, Berlin
- **Martin Oelz**, Senior Specialist at the Working Conditions and Gender Equality Department of the International Labour Organization (ILO)
- **Lilian Tschan**, State Secretary at the Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs

12.30-1.30 pm

**LUNCH BREAK**

1.30-2.30 pm

**IN-DEPTH DISCUSSION and EXCHANGE on selected focal points in Labs**

Lab 1:

- **Which challenges, but also good practice examples exist in Europe?**  
(Online, in English)

Lab 2:

- **How does effective victim protection succeed through good counselling?**  
(On-site, German and English)

Lab 3:

- **How do criminal prosecution and asset recovery work?**  
(On-site, German and English)

Lab 4:

- **How should shelters for victims of labour exploitation be organised?**  
(On-site, German and English)

2.30-2.50 pm

**COFFEE BREAK**



**2.50-3.15 pm**

**LAB RESULTS and REFLECTION**

In conversation with ...

**Sascha Lübbe**, Journalist and author

**3.15-4.00 pm**

**PANEL DISCUSSION: Prospects and next steps for a fair labour market in Europe**

- **Katja Karger**, Chairwoman DGB District Berlin-Brandenburg
- **Micha Klapp**, State Secretary for Labour and Gender Equality, SenASGIVA, Berlin
- **Stefan Olsson**, Deputy Director-General of the European Commission's Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion
- **Andreas Schulz**, Deputy Managing Director, Confederation of Employers and Business Associations of Berlin and Brandenburg (UVB e. V.)
- **Martin Weiland**, Special Representative for the Implementation of the Points of Single Contact for Employers, BMAS

**CONCLUSION OF THE CONFERENCE:  
Insights for Berlin**

**Micha Klapp**, State Secretary for Labour and Gender Equality, SenASGIVA, Berlin

# LABS

1.30–2.30 pm

IN-DEPTH DISCUSSION AND EXCHANGE ON SELECTED FOCAL POINTS IN LABS

**MODERATION:**

**Lejla Medanhodžić,**  
Researcher,  
Minor – Project Office  
for Education and  
Research

Online,  
in English

**Lab 1:** Which challenges, but also good practice examples exist in Europe?

**INPUTS FROM:**

- **Dr Norbert Cyrus,** Researcher at the Viadrina Centre B/ORDERS IN MOTION
- **Peter Van Hauwermeiren,** Member of the Council of Europe Group of Experts on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings (GRETA)
- **Dr Anne von Oswald,** Head of Department at Minor – Project Office for Education and Research

This lab aims to shed light on fundamental aspects and challenges in the context of labour exploitation in order to understand its impact on workers and society and to counteract it with good approaches.

**KEY QUESTIONS:**

1. How do labour exploitation and unfair working conditions affect the living conditions of the workers concerned?
2. What good practices and measures have already been successfully implemented in different European countries?

**MODERATION:**

**Nicola Meyer,**  
Head of the Migration  
and Decent Work  
Department (Berlin),  
Arbeit und Leben  
Berlin-Brandenburg

**Alia Schwelling,**  
Forced Labour Officer,  
BEMA

On-site,  
German and  
English

**Lab 2:** How can effective victim protection be achieved through good counselling?

**INPUTS FROM:**

- **Ewa Edström,** Ombudswoman, Fastighetsanställdas Förbund (Union of Employees in the Real Estate Industry), Sweden
- **Ernesta Rousseva,** Chief Expert, Secretariat of the National Commission for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, Bulgaria
- **Sophia Wirsching,** Managing Director of the German NGO Network against Human Trafficking (KOK)

We will discuss good practices for supporting victims of labour exploitation, including legal counselling, psychosocial support and the creation of job prospects.

**KEY QUESTIONS:**

1. What are the challenges in accessing support and counselling services for trafficked persons and how can the responsible actors (government agencies, NGOs, etc.) improve their cooperation?
2. What measures can we take to enable those affected by labour exploitation to return safely to the labour market?



#### MODERATION:

**Dubravko Kliska,**  
Project Lead,  
gsub mbH

On-site,  
German and  
English

### Lab 3: How do criminal prosecution and asset recovery work?

#### INPUTS FROM:

- **Sascha Haug**, Head of the Joint Project Group on Labour Exploitation, Berlin State Criminal Police
- **Christine Höfele**, Senior Public Prosecutor and contact person at the Berlin public prosecutor's office for human trafficking for labour exploitation
- **Dirk Iserloh**, Head of Human Trafficking Department at the Federal Criminal Police Office
- **Els Martens**, Senior Public Prosecutor for Labour Exploitation in the Netherlands

We will address the criminal law dimension of labour exploitation in this lab. It will focus on the work of the investigating authorities, supervisory bodies and the process of asset recovery.

#### KEY QUESTIONS:

1. How are cases of labour exploitation detected?
2. How can we improve criminal prosecution and asset recovery at national and European level?

#### MODERATION:

**Naile Tanış,**  
Head of  
Department,  
Independent  
National Rapporteur  
Mechanism  
on trafficking in  
human beings,  
German Institute  
for Human Rights

On-site,  
German and  
English

### Lab 4: How should shelters for victims of labour exploitation be organised?

#### INPUTS FROM:

- **Manfred Buchner**, Psychosocial counsellor at MEN VIA - for male victims of human trafficking, Austria
- **Frederik Dejonghe**, Policy Officer and Legal Counsellor at Payoke - NGO against trafficking and exploitation of human beings, Belgium
- **Anne-Kathrin Krug**, Researcher at the Independent National Rapporteur Mechanism on trafficking in human beings, German Institute for Human Rights

Due to the trauma and threat situations in which victims of labour exploitation often find themselves, the necessary framework conditions for shelters are very complex. The aim of the lab is to discuss what the ideal accommodation for victims of labour exploitation should look like.

#### KEY QUESTIONS:

1. What are the requirements for a shelter for victims of labour exploitation?
2. What experience exist in the EU and Germany regarding the design of shelters?

# DIALOGUE FORUM

## GET IN TOUCH WITH THESE EXHIBITORS:

### **BEMA - Berlin Advice Centre for Migration and Decent Work**

BEMA offers support for migrants and mobile workers in precarious living and working situations. The centre offers individual case counselling in 12 languages and provides information on labour exploitation, forced labour, human trafficking and other labour and social law issues.  
<https://bema.berlin/en/>

### **German Institute for Human Rights**

The German Institute for Human Rights is Germany's independent national human rights institution. Its tasks include policy advice, human rights education, research and cooperation with international organisations. Since November 2022, the Independent National Rapporteur Mechanism on trafficking in human beings for the implementation of the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings No. 197 has been anchored there.  
<https://www.institut-fuer-menschenrechte.de>

### **Fair Mobility, Advisory Network of the German Trade Union Confederation**

Fair Mobility is a nationwide advisory network of 13 advisory centres of the German Trade Union Confederation (DGB). The network supports EU citizens in terms of labour law and advises employees from Central and Eastern Europe on their rights on the German labour market and campaigns for fair wages and working conditions.  
<https://www.faire-mobilitaet.de/en>

### **Service centre against labour exploitation, forced labour and human trafficking**

The Service Centre supports the nationwide establishment and strengthening of cooperation structures in the fight against labour exploitation, forced labour and human trafficking. The focus is on raising awareness and imparting knowledge about exploitative labour and forced labour situations at federal, state and municipal level. The Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (BMAS) is funding the Service Centre.  
<https://www.servicestelle-gegen-zwangsarbeit.de/en/>

Senate Department  
for Labour, Social Services, Gender Equality,  
Integration, Diversity and Anti-Discrimination

**BERLIN**



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Senatsverwaltung für Arbeit, Soziales,  
Gleichstellung, Integration, Vielfalt  
und Antidiskriminierung



#GegenArbeitsausbeutung  
#FightingLabourExploitation

#### IMPRINT

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