

Lithuanian
Centre
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Sciences

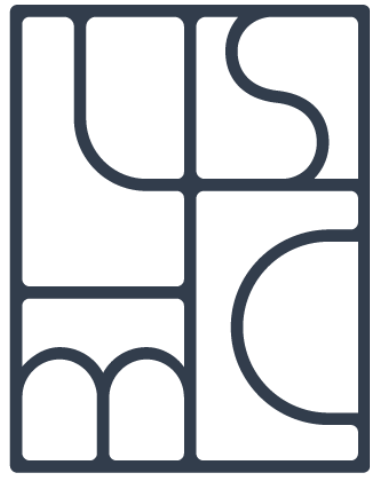


Union servicing and self-employed workers: case of Lithuania

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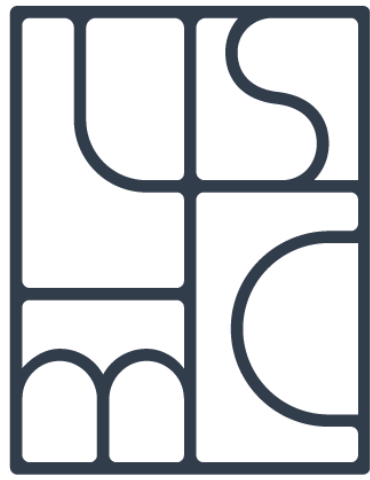
Florence

19 November, 2021



Trade union actions aimed at self-employed

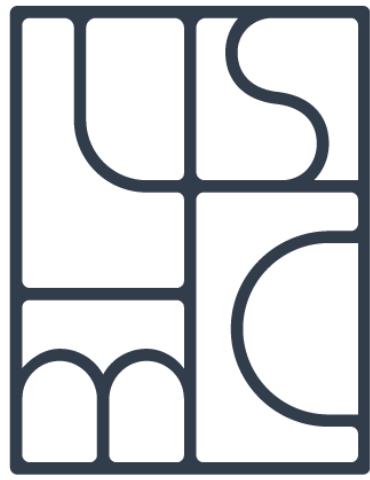
- ◆ Though share of self-employment in Lithuania is relatively low, but there are several sectoral unions uniting self-employed workers: Lithuanian Actors' Guild, TU of Guides and Tour Leaders, Union of Lithuanian Journalists.
- ◆ Moreover Lithuanian unions are actively supporting platform workers – TUs cooperate with Couriers' Association, uniting platform workers, participate in protest actions, support their demands for better remuneration and working conditions.



Services for self-employed guides (1)

An example of union services for self-employed workers – activities of Trade Union of Guides and Tour Leaders (TUGTL), uniting self-employed tour guides.

TUGTL is a branch trade union of LPS 'Solidarumas', organising and providing services for self-employed guides, operating in Lithuania. TUGTL provides some training for self-employed guides, represents their interests in state institutions, organises various actions and inspections against illegally working guides and unfair tourism agencies.

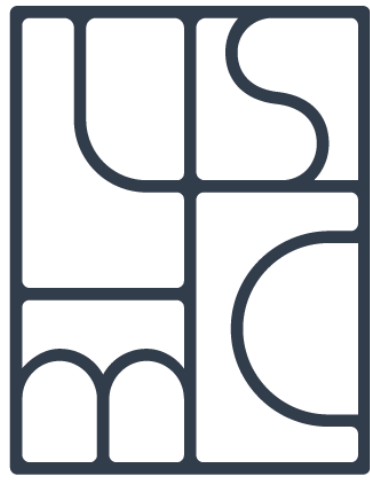


Services for self-employed guides (2)

Reasons. In Lithuania, tour guides operate under exceptionally unfavourable conditions – short season, low income and social guarantees, facing unfair competition (illegally working guides, providing false information), defective tourism legislation, absence of state support for the sector, etc.

Goals. TUGTL aims at: ♦ increasing social guarantees and improving working conditions, ♦ combating illegal tour guiding activities, ♦ improving regulation of the tourism sector in Lithuania.

Capacities. TUGTL is a small sectoral TU, established in 2009. Services are organised and provided by the president of the union and few active members only.



Services for self-employed guides – activities

- ◆ **Organises trainings for self-employed guides** (e.g. on negotiation possibilities of self-employed workers; on information warfare, organised together with Lithuanian Armed Forces; on podiatry, other).
- ◆ **Initiates meetings and discussions with authorities** (e.g. the Government, responsible ministries, State Tax Inspectorate, other) on the necessary legislation improvement, guides' licensing, combating illegally working guides, introduction of a Code of Ethics for Tour Guides.
- ◆ **Provides inspections of illegally working guides.** Alone or together with responsible public authorities are monitoring working tour guides and in case of illegal work call police and initiate cases against illegally working guides and tourist agencies hiring illegal guides.
- ◆ **Organises other actions** (e.g. protest actions and pickets, 'elections' of the 'worst employer').