Platform work: Opportunity or risk?

Cohesion as a value – Benefits and costs for young people of transitioning to a post-Covid world
Outreach event of the COR’s Young Elected Politicians Programme

23 September 2021
Irene Mandl
What is platform work?

Paid work

Three parties involved

Break-down of jobs into tasks

On-demand services
Scale and scope of platform work in Europe

• About 1-2% do it as a main job
• About 10% do it at least occasionally

• Substantial heterogeneity among countries
• But: some common trends
  • Urban phenomenon
  • Growing trend – with mixed developments during COVID-19
  • Increasing diversity within platform work
# Types of platform work in Europe

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<tr>
<th>Scale of tasks</th>
<th>Skills level required</th>
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<td>Format of service provision</td>
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Eurofound identified 10 common types of platform work
Main impact on work and employment

**Opportunities**
- Easy labour market access, assignment based on objective criteria
- Source of extra income
- Stimulant to self-employment
- Development of transversal skills
- Working time flexibility
- Fair and reasonable pay rates
- Reduction of risk of assault
- Dissemination of OSH information

**Risks**
- Labour market segmentation
- Ambiguous employment status and issues of social protection
- Skills underutilisation and deskilling
- Lack of autonomy
- Limitations of client ratings
- Short notice
- High work intensity
- Poor career prospects in the platform economy
- Below-market pay rates, unpaid working time, unpredictability of earnings
- Unclear health & safety responsibility
Some policy recommendations

• Clarification of the concept of platform work and its regulatory frameworks, also for enforceability
• Consider heterogeneity within platform work
• Capitalise on opportunities, incl. for rural development
• Need for awareness raising and information provision
  • To workers
  • To policy makers and labour market institutions
  • To the society
• Need to tackle social protection
• Need to tackle representation and collective voice
Further reading

http://eurofound.link/ef18001

http://eurofound.link/ef19045

http://eurofound.link/ef20012
Thank you for your attention!

Irene Mandl
Irene.Mandl@ela.europa.eu