

Global Conference on Measuring New Forms of Employment

Brussels, 4 - 5 July 2024



#MeasuringEmployment

Towards improved statistical framework on DPE

Session 4

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A strong need for statistics on DP work and employment

Examples of this data include the following:

- ▶ The prevalence of DPE.
- ▶ The trends of DPE over time.
- ▶ Detailed statistics such as characteristics of the people carrying out DP work, characteristics of the work, working conditions etc.

Data is needed to create a common understanding of the extent and situation of persons carrying out DP work.



Data is needed to understand the impact of DPE



Job Creation vs. Replacement

Does digital platform employment create new jobs or is it a transformation of already existing ones?



Flexibility and control over the work

Does digital platform employment provide more flexibility for workers or reduce their authority to control their work?



Access to Social Protection

How does digital platform employment impact on the access to social protection and employment benefits?



Worker dependency

How dependent are workers on digital platforms as a source of employment and income?

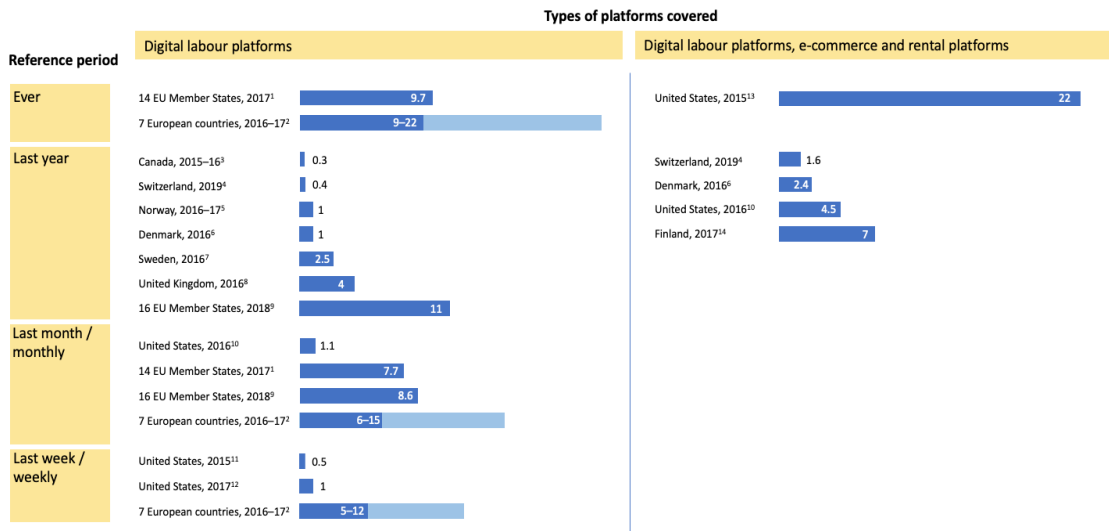
Etc...



To meet this need different attempts to measure different aspects of DPE has been done.

Different statistical concepts and measurements.

- ▶ Several countries, organizations have measured DPE– by using different concepts, definitions, sources, and methodology
- ▶ Still big data gaps, globally



A limited and diverse landscape of statistics on DPE:

- ▶ The topic is characterized by the existence of several different terms, concepts and definitions with different underlying objectives, boundaries and scope.
- ▶ This hampers discussions, the understanding of statistics and the methodological development.
- ▶ We need to be sure of what to measure, before we can decide on how to measure it.



OECD-ILO-EUROSTAT handbook

▶ **Provides input on definitions of:**

- digital platforms,
- digital platform work,
- digital platform employment.

▶ **Provides a conceptual framework for DP-work**

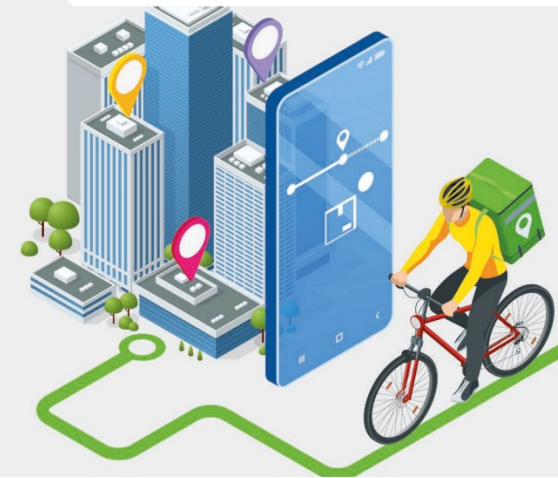
Flexible framework that enables data producers to focus on the specific components/layers of interest.

▶ **Describes experiences by countries of measurement**

Additionally, the handbook describes the experiences of various countries in measuring digital platform employment.



Handbook on Measuring Digital Platform Employment and Work



A need for further development

Definition of digital platform work and employment

- ▶ One of the main challenges is to provide an effective definition with clear boundaries.
- ▶ The definition provided in the OECD handbook is an important step forward but still creates ambiguous cases, which need to be addressed.

Indicators

- ▶ More work is needed to recommend the indicators to produce once data has been collected.
- ▶ Indicators should be policy relevant and meet the different policy needs

The different components and layers.

- ▶ A more thoroughly discussion is needed around the different components of the DPE framework is needed.
- ▶ Do they capture the different relevant components of DPE, considering the different needs for statistics?

Recommendations for data collection

- ▶ How can different sources be used in a complementary way: HH -surveys, Specialized surveys, admin-based register, big data etc.
- ▶ Provide stronger recommendation for collecting data in HH-surveys.
- ▶ Should build on the experiences already made.



Learning points from measuring DPE in LFS

-Measuring DPE requires several operational decisions



Screening questions

Minimalistic approach:

-Tends to lead to misunderstanding, high share of false positives and negatives.

Multiple questions:

-Higher response burden.
-Captures a broader range of DPE activities



A strategy to deal with false positives

Collecting the name of the DP

List based approach

-Matching the name with a pre-defined list.

- Include additional questions

-Are payments made or clients received through the DP
-Test the boundaries



Target population

Employed only

-Creates a direct link to information already collected (industry, occupation working time etc.)
-A significant number of DPE among non-employed persons.

All persons in working age

-Seems to capture a larger share of DPE.
-Is necessary if a longer reference period is used



Reference period

Short reference period (ref week)

Makes it possible to link to other labour indicators, e.g. share of DPE out of tot employment.
Problematic if low prevalence of DPE.

Long reference periode (12, 6 month)

Increases the occurrence and thereby the sample of DP workers.
Issues with recalling which impacts on the quality

Mixed reference periods

Asking first in relation to a long reference period and then in relation to a shorter

The decisions impacts on the results, and we need to be able to provide stronger recommendations for countries.

Strong need for further conceptual and methodological development

Was discussed at the 21st ICLS, strong support to develop statistical guidelines on Digital platform work and employment

- ▶ Provide strengthened definitions and stronger recommendations for data collection. Support countries in producing policy relevant statistics in a more harmonized way
- ▶ Needs to be a flexible and agile standard
- ▶ Presented and discussed at the 22'nd ICLS in 2028.

Next steps

Working group will be established in 2024

- ▶ Countries from all regions, observers (organizations), employers and workers representatives.
- ▶ Needs to be closely linked to the work done on the policy side.

ILO standard setting process 2025/2026

Standard on *Decent work and digital platform economy*



Thank you



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