

## Eurostat-ILO global conference on measurement of new forms of employment – Brussels - 4th to 5th July 2024

The ongoing and rapid evolution of the world of work underlies many key topics of concern to policy makers. It ranges across topics such as the impact of AI, increasing digitalisation of work, digital platform employment and evolving work relationships. The need for data to understand this evolution is clear, and most countries and international institutions are trying to enhance the quality and comparability of information on how work activities, arrangements and conditions are changing.

In this context, Eurostat and the ILO are organising a joint conference on new forms of employment to bring together high-profile policy makers and statistical experts from around the world to provide input to the future development of statistics on new forms of employment.

The conference will address the policy demand at national and international levels for reliable statistical information on the ongoing and rapid evolution of work and the labour market. The focus will also be set on the possible statistical answers to this demand, tackling issues related to data sources, definitions and measurement as well as current experiences in measuring the phenomenon, both at national and international levels.

Participants will include high level representatives of the ILO and the European Commission, high level national policy makers, representatives of workers' and employers' organisations, labour statisticians and researchers from around the world to ensure that a broad range of perspectives are taken on board. High-level panels opening and closing the conference will place the measurement work in the context of policy needs and seek to outline a path for future developments.

The topics to be covered closely align with key areas of focus both at the statistical and policy levels within Europe, the ILO and its constituents as well as in all countries over the world.

The 21st International Conference of Labour Statisticians (ICLS) tasked the ILO with the development of statistical standards on digital platform work to be presented and discussed at the 22nd ICLS in 2028. This work is closely related to the forthcoming standard setting discussions to be held in the ILO with the topic of decent work in the platform economy being on the agenda of the 113th Session of the International Labour Conference (ILC) in 2025. The exchanges of views to be held in this global Conference will be helpful for these ILO tripartite discussions, particularly by discussing accurate statistical definitions of the various concepts. The 21st ICLS also emphasised the need to expand support for the collection of information on evolving work relationships in line with standards adopted in 2018 at the 20th ICLS. Both these topics, which are clearly related, among others, will be a central focus of the discussion at the conference. The European Commission has set the working conditions of the digital platform employees as a policy priority for the next years aiming at a fairer and human centred labour market. Statistical information on this subject is of paramount importance to draft effective policies.

In Europe and several parts of the world, development has started to implement corresponding statistical frameworks, in the context of the publication of the Handbook on Forms of Employment, drafted by a group led by UNECE in 2022. Firstly, the emergence and growth of new forms of employment require actions to use tools to measure them in data collection, such as the International Classification of Status in Employment (ICSE-18). ICSE-18 introduces two dimensions in the classification of the status of employment, namely dependency and economic risk. Secondly, technological advancement, and increasing digitalisation with their potential impact on social protection and working conditions will require developing new subjects through ad hoc data collections in the labour force domain. In particular, following a pilot project in 2022, the European Union Labour Force Survey will collect data on digital platform employment in 2026. In the US, the CNStat study on contingent work (CWS) and the BLS contingent work collection in 2023 are also important developments in this domain. In parallel, a quality framework to measure the quality and comparability of data on digital platform employment will be elaborated and discussed with the international group of experts on quality of employment. More generally, algorithmic management and the use of artificial intelligence-driven tools at work, as well as their characteristics and impacts, should be considered for the development of future statistical measurements. Thirdly, the 21st ICLS adopted a resolution setting up standards for measuring the informal economy and informal employment. Informality increases the risk of vulnerability and precariousness of the workers and reduce the quality of employment. Eurostat will start to work on the adoption of the new standards to measure informality, producing highly valuable information to design informed policy to increase the level of formalization of the European labour market.

Finally, many other evolutions such as decarbonisation of the economy, other aspects of digitalisation including telework, and the development of the social economy impact the labour market and labour conditions as well as lifelong learning needs and tools, requiring adapted measurements of changes of the latter.

The conference aims at being a forum for discussion on all these subjects and at supporting both ongoing implementations of recently developed statistical tools and the reflection on further statistical needs in the domain.