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International Labour Organization

Global Conference on Measuring New Forms of Employment

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#MeasuringEmployment

MEASURING DIGITAL PLATFORM EMPLOYMENT
Eurostat pilot data collection

Session 4

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Background

✓Theoretical aspect of the measurement of DPE

✓The framework: the LFS

- Consistency with the ICLS standards in terms of work and employment
- Focus on the supply side of the labour market
- Feasible to be applied to a household survey

✓In practice

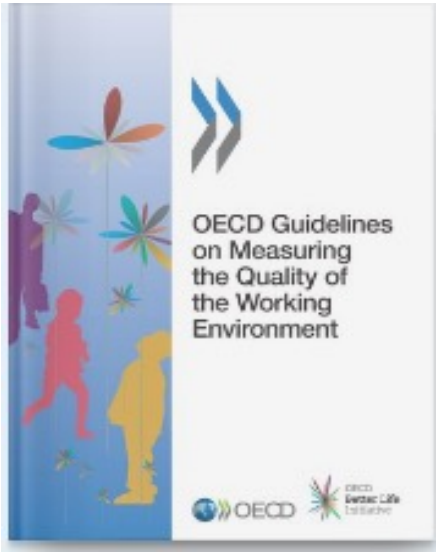
- 2022 pilot data collection on DPE
- 2026 EU-LFS module on DPE

Definitions

✓**"Employment"**
in the context of the LFS, is defined accordingly the ICLS standard, in particular their implementation in the EU-LFS

✓**"Digital platform"**
is defined in line with the

Handbook on measuring the Digital Platform Employment and Work

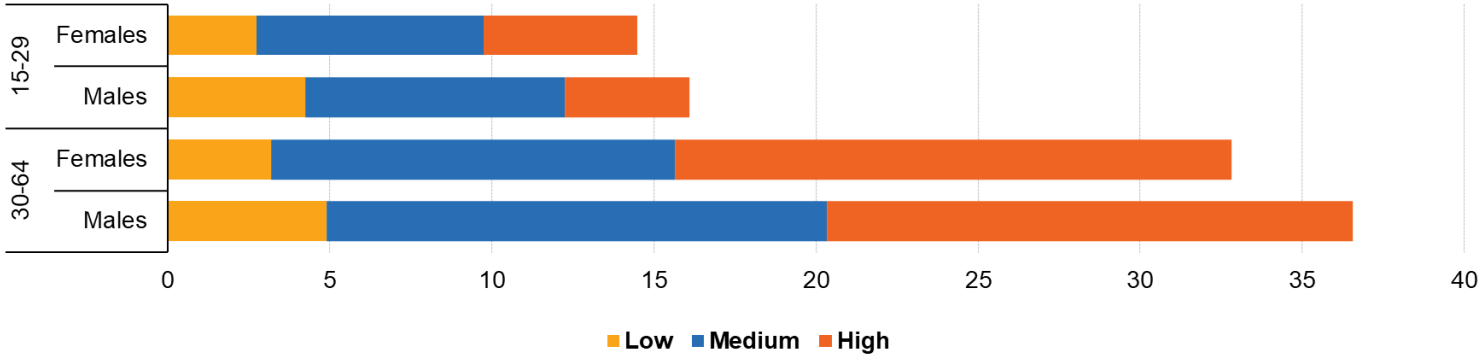


Some results from the 2022 pilot data collection

Among all 17 countries as a whole:

- **3.0 %** of all people aged 15 to 64 performed at least one hour in DPE in the last 12 months.
- **4.4 %** of the average employment in 2022 experimented DPE

Digital platform workers by age, sex and level of education
(as % of all digital platform workers for at least 1h in the last year aged 15-64, Agg 17(1), 2022)



Note: (1) Agg 17 refers to the aggregate of 17 countries listed in the definition section of the article
Source: LFS ad-hoc extraction - pilot survey

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Adopted Definitions

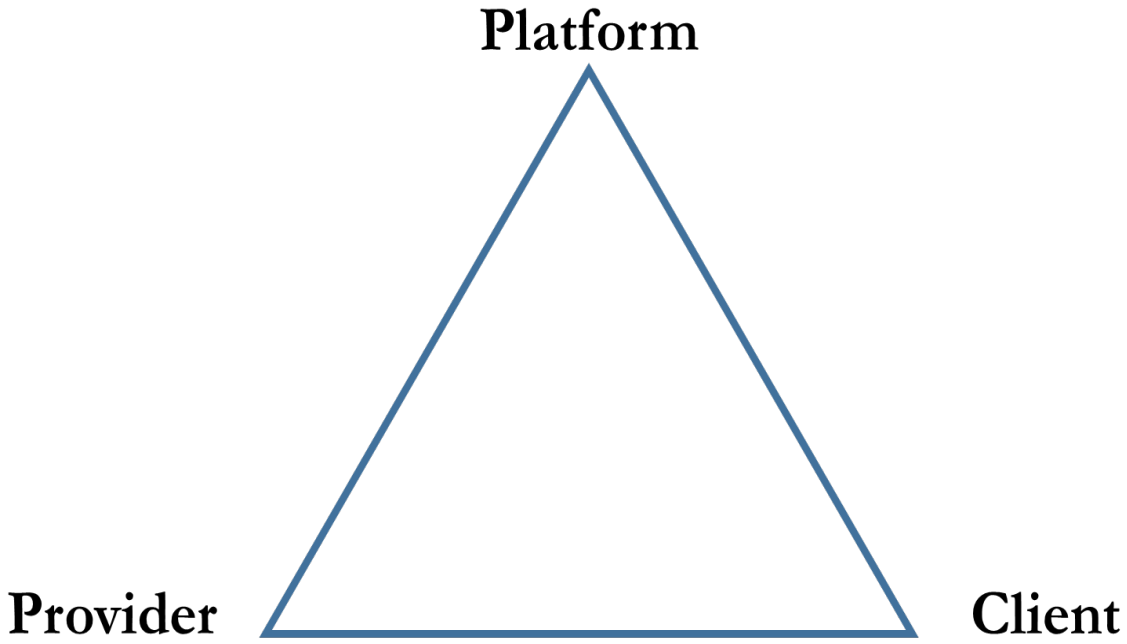
Digital Platform Employment involves three distinct agents:

1. **The provider**,
   i.e. the supply side of the labour market (the employed person);

2. **The client**,
   i.e. the demand side of the labour market (it may be an individual or a legal person);

3. **The platform,**
   i.e. a digital online service facilitating interactions between two or more distinct but interdependent sets of providers and clients who interact through the service via the internet.

Interaction amongst agents



The digital platform work arrangement involve either:

- Direct interaction among all three agents (**triangular relation**), OR
- Direct interaction between the provider and the platform, via internet, coupled with a direct interaction between the platform and the clients, where the platform controls and/or organizes essential aspects of the activities, such as to facilitate payments, distribute and prioritize the work to be conducted (**double bilateral relation**).

Methodology

In line with the EU-LFS:

- supply side of the labour market (no business perspective);
- activities constituting employment (work for pay or profit);
- counting people (not transactions, volumes or revenue);

Methodology

Main symmetrical challenges:

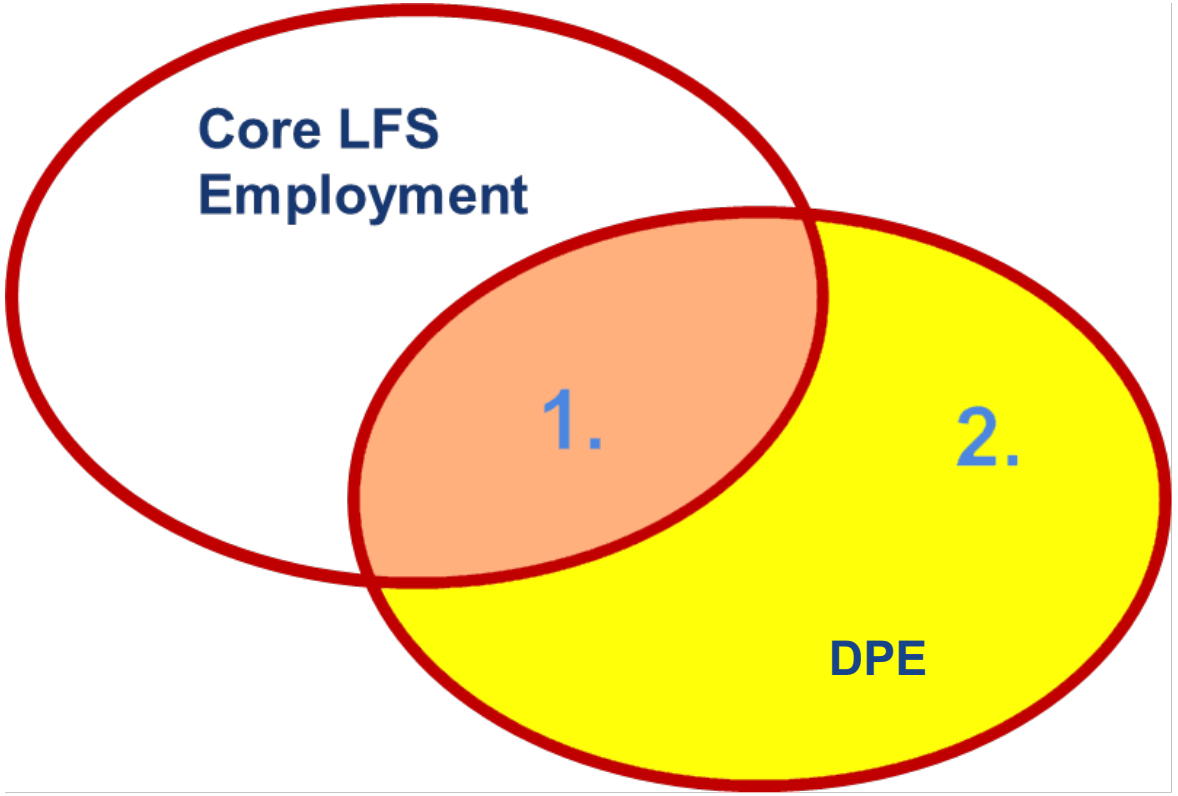
1. to identify the paid platform work within the employed people already detected in the EU-LFS (as first or second job)

Even if they do not perceive to be DPE

2. to identify people non-detected in the core LFS as employed but actually performing paid platform work

They will not enter in the core EU-LFS employed set of people

They will be object of the analysis of the specific module results



Methodology

Main symmetrical challenges:

1. to identify false positive

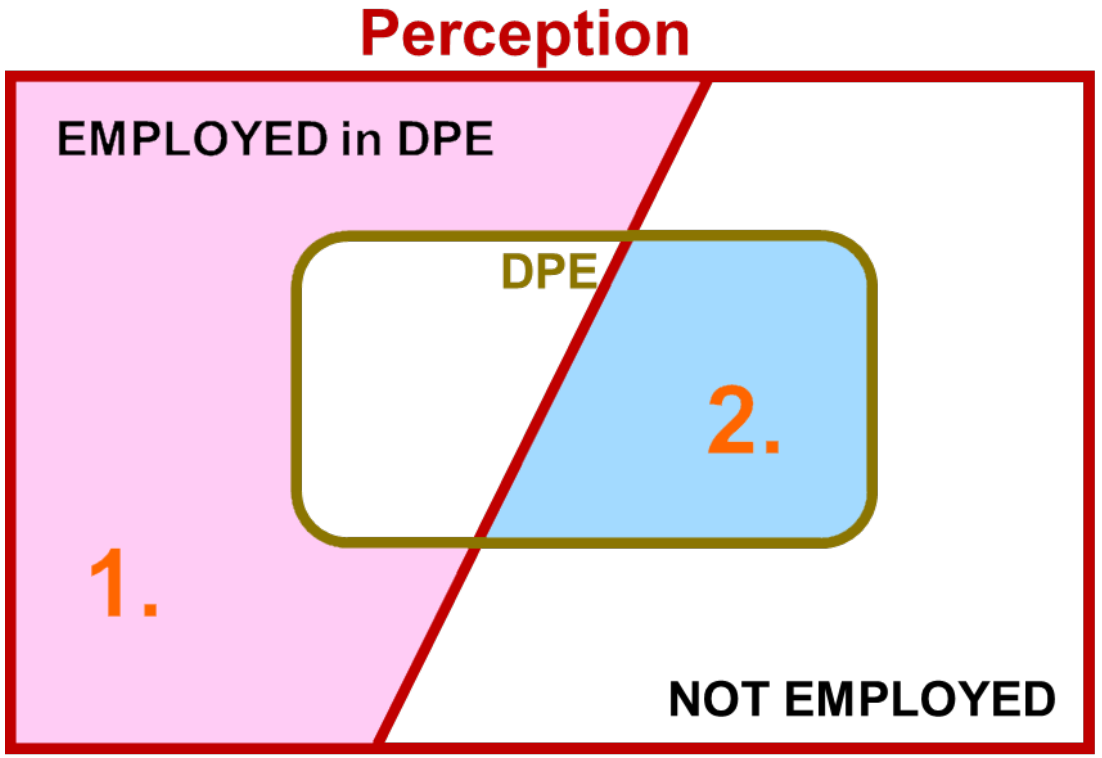
Possible actions:

- Cross validating questions
- Asking for platform name

2. to identify false negative

Possible actions:

- To use examples and description of the working tasks as far as possible
- To start from list of DPE types instead of referring to the core EU-LFS



Methodology

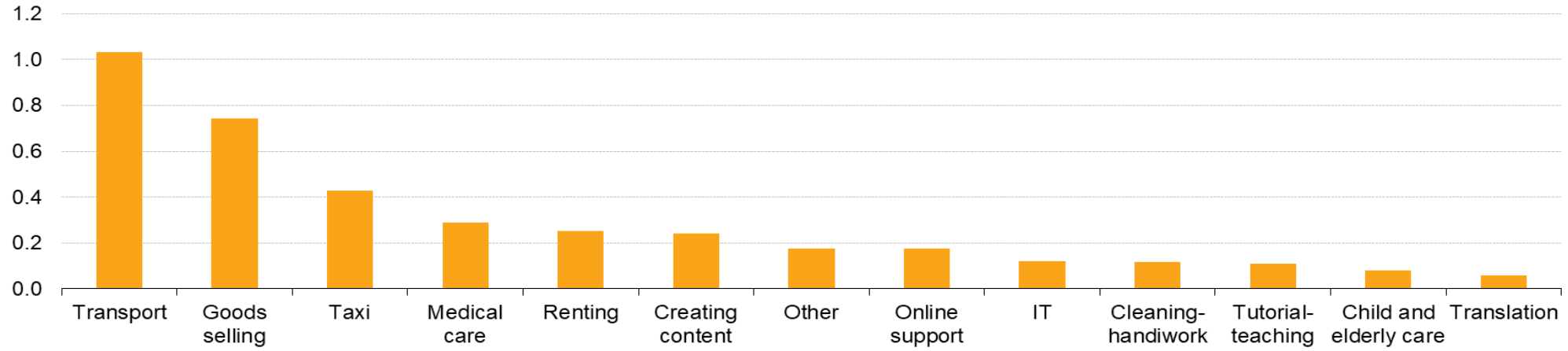
Several kinds of DPE proposed to possibly enlarge the scope:

1. Taxi or transport services (split between transport of only goods and of persons)
2. Renting out accommodation
3. Selling of goods (produced or bought with the intention to be sold)
4. Other work or services (split among Cleaning services, Handiwork, Child or Elderly care, Medical services, Tutorials / teaching, Translation, Programming / Coding, Web or graphic design, Online support or checks for online content, Data or text entry / editing, Creating contents, Other)

Methodology

Several kinds of DPE proposed to possibly enlarge the scope:

Digital platform workers for at least 1h in the last year by task or services category
(as % of all people, aged 15-64, Agg 17(1), 2022)



Note: 19.9 % of respondents reported more than one DPE category: to avoid double counting, the percentages cannot be summed up, (1) Agg 17 refers to the aggregate of 17 countries listed in the data source section of the article; 'not stated' is excluded for each category

Source: LFS ad-hoc extraction - pilot survey

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Methodology

Particular cases

- *Renting accommodation related works (only if actual works is involved)*
- *Practitioners arranging their work with the patients through a platform*
- *Food or goods delivery*

It is important to identify the particular cases to focus the analysis on its actual purpose

Main Lessons Learnt

- Measurement of DPE should not rely on the employed population only, because data shows that some DPE are not employed according to the EU-LFS.
  This is connected with the measurement of false negatives.
- Choice of the reference period is crucial.
  A mixed reference period may be a solution.
  The development of new indicators with mixed reference period should be considered.
- Asking for the name of the platform is fundamental to catch false positives

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Thank you

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