



EU-FUNDED RESEARCH ON PLATFORM WORK

December 2021

The Commission has proposed a legislative initiative to improve the working conditions for people working through digital labour platforms. It puts forward measures to address the misclassification of employment status in platform work, tackle algorithmic management challenges and issues related to enforcement, traceability and transparency, including in cross-border situations. Research and Innovation projects funded through the EU's Horizon 2020 programme are analysing the impact of this transformation on EU workers and identify novel approaches to support and protect their rights.

Examples of EU-funded research and innovation projects contributing to fair conditions for workers in the platform economy:



SCIENTISTS MEASURE AND ANALYSE THE ONLINE LABOUR MARKET

The online gig economy is offering work opportunities to millions. However, economic statistics do not capture the phenomenon, making the online labour market invisible. The ERC project [iLABOUR](#) created the Online Labour Index (OLI), which had major international social impact by exposing the geographical and occupational divisions in the online market. To improve access for journalists and policy-makers to this highly relevant data, the EU-funded project [GIGSTATS](#) is now creating a tool that allows practitioners to easily produce OLI data reports for use in their publications.



A VOLUNTARY SCORING SCHEME FOR FAIR PLATFORM WORK

Online work platforms and Apps are booming markets and big employer. As a result there is a growing need to focus on working conditions. For instance, negotiating working hours and salaries is often difficult if not impossible. Some types of platform work can be described as highly stressful, low-income and with lengthy and erratic hours. The EU-funded [FAIRWORK](#) project has co-developed fair work principles with key stakeholders and established a voluntary scheme estimating and classifying platforms' behaviour in terms of these principles.



LISTENING TO MOBILISED FOOD DELIVERY COURIERS DURING THE PANDEMIC

In response to the rise of new forms of labour governance in the platform economy and the emergence of the Covid-19 pandemic, different forms of worker mobilisation have recently emerged across Europe. Beginning work in January 2022, the research action [COGONU](#) aims to map couriers' mobilisations since 2016, analyse them (causes, trajectories, transnational coordination, outcomes) and explore their feedback effects on corporate and EU governance.



UNDERSTANDING PLATFORM LABOUR THROUGH THE LENS OF OUR CITIES

The platform economy combines the application of digital technologies, business investments and new jobs. The [PLUS](#) project proposes the urban dimension as a fundamental stage for measuring and evaluating the social and economic impact of these innovations by covering four disruptive platforms and seven European cities. It is suggesting a European strategy balancing economic growth and tech transformations to distribute fairness and social protection. To this aim, the project has already proposed a Charter of Fundamental Rights for platform workers and is in the process of developing training material on social protection to support a community of practice of platform workers and professionals.



GENDER, RACE & CLASS IN THE GIG ECONOMY'S ORGANISATION OF LABOUR

Digital platforms are becoming increasingly ubiquitous as new institutional actors that redraw relations between civil society, the market, and the state. [PLABOR](#) aims to determine how digital platforms distribute new opportunities and vulnerabilities for workers along gender, class, and racial lines. Its ongoing research on delivery and home cleaning apps has demonstrated that working and living conditions of platform workers depend to a large extent on the constantly changing software mediating their work. It has also analysed impacts on migrant platform labour suggesting new policy approaches.

The Commission will continue to fund projects on the platform economy to the benefit of workers and businesses through its Horizon Europe framework programme and its clusters on health, society and industry.

More information on how:

[Research and Innovation contributes to the future of work](#)

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