



Technopolis - Tatjana Guznajeva, Juanita Garcia Gutierrez, Ana Oliveira, Matthias Ploeg

New forms of work, enabled by automation technologies, are in need of regulation and representation

Automation technologies have given rise to new forms of work. The platform economy (i.e., economic and social activity facilitated by platforms - typically online sales or technology frameworks)¹ is, to some extent, contributing to economic development of regions. However, until now the working/employment conditions of platform workers are poorly regulated at both the EU and national levels. In regions where trade unions are more active, they are more likely to support self-employed workers, which includes platform workers. For example, trade unions in the Czech Republic have been supporting the self-employed to increase their collective bargaining power.² However, in some countries, national legislation prevents self-employed persons or other non-employed workers to enter into collective agreements in order to determine the prices and conditions for the provision of the service.³

All interviewed stakeholders argued that there is a need for the regulation(s) at the EU level that will ensure decent working/employment conditions of platform workers. Besides that some platform workers deliver services across borders, an additional reason for a stronger EU intervention is the fact that a large number of platform workers are migrants – either student migrants or working migrants. Due to limited local language skills and administrative barriers that prevent them from working in other industries, platform work is one of few possible employment options. To capitalize on available labour resources now and in the future, it is essential to ensure decent working/employment conditions for them.

¹ <https://academic-accelerator.com/encyclopedia/platform-economy>

² https://www.etuc.org/sites/default/files/publication/file/2018-10/Trade%20unions%20protecting%20self-employed%20workers_EN.pdf

³ https://www.apgads.lu.lv/fileadmin/user_upload/lu_portal/apgads/PDF/Juridiskas-konferences/ISCFLUL-7-2019/iscflul.7.2-33_Tavits.pdf