ETUI Internet and Platform Work Survey

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Existing research: A lot of uncertainty about the extent of platform work
Platform work: At least monthly

Share among all working-age respondents

Platform work: At least 50% of income

Unreliable source of data
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Random sample of entire adult population
Face-to-face interviews in respondents’ homes
1\textsuperscript{st} round: 2018/19, five CEE countries
\(n=1,000+\) per country
\(n=4,731\) of working age adults (18-64)
The extent of the use of the internet to generate income

- Renting (own) accommodation
- Taxi service or other driving or delivery work done in person
- Sell own possessions online
- Sell self-made products online
- Sell or re-sell other products online
- Generating income through blogging or running social media accounts
- Freelance work doing short tasks or ‘click work’, e.g. data entry, transcriptions, online surveys
- Freelance creative or IT work, e.g. web design, graphic design, programming, translation, copywriting, content creation
- Professional freelance work, e.g. consultancy, accounting, research
- Other freelance services or tasks
Platform work: Ever

Share among all working-age respondents

- COLLEEM (2018)
- Huws et al. (2017–19)
- ETUI (2018–19)
Platform work: Ever

Share among all working-age respondents

Platform work: At least monthly

Share among all working-age respondents

Platform work: At least monthly

Share among all working-age respondents

Platform work: At least 50% of income

Share among all working-age respondents

Platform work: At least 50% of income
Internet work: Including re-selling own belongings

- At least 50% of income in the past 12 months

- Ever tried
- At least monthly
- At least weekly

Bulgaria
- Ever tried: 19.2%
- At least monthly: 2.3%
- At least weekly: 1.3%

Hungary
- Ever tried: 20%
- At least monthly: 4.4%
- At least weekly: 2.1%

Latvia
- Ever tried: 17.6%
- At least monthly: 3.9%
- At least weekly: 1.7%

Poland
- Ever tried: 33.3%
- At least monthly: 7.3%
- At least weekly: 3.6%

Slovakia
- Ever tried: 32.1%
- At least monthly: 5.4%
- At least weekly: 2.3%
Internet work: Excluding re-selling own belongings

Ever tried
At least monthly
At least weekly

Bulgaria
Hungary
Latvia
Poland
Slovakia

0%
10%
20%
30%
Activities: Re-selling frequent, low-skill intensity activities prevail

Internet work, by type of activity

- Sell own possessions online
- Sell or re-sell other products online
- Sell self-made products online
- Find a paying guest for accommodation that you own
- Freelance work doing short tasks or ‘click work’
- Professional freelance work
- Offer a taxi service or other driving or delivery work that you do in person
- Freelance creative or IT work
- Generate income through blogging or running social media accounts
- Other freelance services or tasks

0% 2% 4% 6% 8% 10% 12% 14% 16% 18%

Has ever done it
Does it occasionally (once every few months or more often)
A very low income a likely explanation for attrition

Gross income, over the past 12 months, internet work, occasional
Income from internet work in the past 12 months

- Sell or re-sell other products online
- Find a paying guest for accommodation that you own
- Freelance work doing short tasks or 'click work'
- Offer a taxi service or other driving or delivery work that you do in person
- Sell own possessions online
- Sell self-made products online
- Professional freelance work
- Generate income through blogging or running social media accounts
- Other freelance services or tasks
- Freelance creative or IT work

No income | I income band | II - VI income bands | Don't know

0% 10% 20% 30% 40% 50% 60% 70% 80% 90% 100%
Platform work: Income

Contribution to monthly personal income, respondents who had ever tried platform work

Bulgaria
Hungary
Latvia
Poland
Slovakia

0% 10% 20% 30% 40% 50% 60% 70% 80% 90% 100%

All
Almost all
Around 3/4
Around half
Almost none
No income from platform work
Don’t know
Age and gender composition of internet and platform workers not radically different from other working age adults
Internet work: Age profiles similar to offline workers

- Generate income through blogging or social media accounts
- Freelance work doing short tasks or ‘click work’
- Sell or re-sell other products online
- Professional freelance work
- Sell self-made products online
- Sell own possessions online
- Other freelance services or tasks
- Find a paying guest for accommodation that you own
- Freelance creative or IT work
- Offer a taxi service or other driving or delivery work
- Freelance work doing short tasks or ‘click work’

Average age

- In the past
- At least once a year
- Never
Platform work: Age profiles similar to offline workers

Average age

In the past At least once a year Never

Bulgaria
Hungary
Latvia
Poland
Slovakia
Total

15 20 25 30 35 40 45 50 55 60 65
Gender: Internet workers (at least once a year)

- Other freelance services or tasks
- Freelance work doing short tasks or ‘click work’
- Professional freelance work
- Sell own possessions online
- Offer a taxi service or other driving or delivery work that you do in person
- Sell or re-sell other products online
- Generate income through blogging or running social media accounts
- Sell self-made products online
- Find a paying guest for accommodation that you own
- Freelance creative or IT work

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Women</th>
<th>Men</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Other freelance services or tasks</td>
<td>70%</td>
<td>60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Freelance work doing short tasks or ‘click work’</td>
<td>60%</td>
<td>70%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professional freelance work</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>60%</td>
</tr>
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<td>50%</td>
<td>60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Freelance creative or IT work</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>60%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Gender: Platform workers

Never

In the past

At least once a year

Women

Men
Education

Internet workers (excluding the online selling of belongings)

- Never did internet work
- Internet work ever tried
- Internet work at least once a year

Platform workers

- Never did platform work
- Platform work in the past
- Platform work at least once a year
Labour market situation of internet and platform workers was somewhat more precarious
Labour market status in past twelve months

Internet workers, excluding the sale of belongings (once a year or more often)

- In paid work
- In education or training
- In paid work but absent (e.g. illness, parental or other leave)
- Not in paid work for other reasons (incl. homemaker, caring)
- Unemployed actively seeking work
- Not in paid work due to disability or other health condition
- Unemployed not actively seeking work
- Receiving pension
- Other

Internet workers

Others
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Platform workers (%)</th>
<th>Others (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>In paid work</td>
<td>70%</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In paid work but absent (e.g. illness, parental or other leave)</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In education or training</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not in paid work for other reasons (incl. homemaker, caring)</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unemployed actively seeking work</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unemployed not actively seeking work</td>
<td>60%</td>
<td>60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Receiving pension</td>
<td>70%</td>
<td>70%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not in paid work due to disability or other health condition</td>
<td>80%</td>
<td>80%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>80%</td>
<td>80%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
A higher incidence of non-standard employment

Main source of income by type of employment contract in the past twelve months

- Internet workers
- Other employed
- Platform workers
- Other employed
Fragmented trajectories

Number of work contracts signed over the past twelve months

Internet workers

Others

Platform workers

Others

no contracts signed
1 contract
2 or more contracts
Conclusions

▶ Experience with internet and platform work common, but only a small group engage on a regular basis
▶ Offline samples give lower shares, but our survey not too far off from COLLEEM
▶ Biased towards lower skilled activities
▶ Online and offline workers similar (age, gender, student status)
▶ Online workers more precarious: a higher incidence of non-standard employment, more fragmented employment trajectories
▶ No evidence of labour market integrative function, or a ‘stepping stone’