

2021 ETUI  
INTERNET AND  
PLATFORM WORK  
SURVEY

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# THE PLATFORM ECONOMY AND THE FUTURE OF WORK

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**EMPLOYMENT RELATIONSHIP :**  
NORMATIVE PARADIGM OF SUBORDINATION &  
PERSONAL DEPENDENCY (CONTROL, DIRECTION,  
ORGANIZATIONAL POWER)

IS IT STILL *THE* INDICATOR DETECTING **IMBALANCE**  
**IN THE BARGAINING POWER** BETWEEN LABOUR  
PROVIDER AND THE CONTRACTOR?

# PLATFORM ECONOMY

## PLATFORM WORK NEEDS A BROAD DEFINITION

- When digital platform **matches supply and demand** and **enables the provision of work**.
- **4,3 %** of the surveyed people : platform workers.

## PRECARITY AS OVERARCHING CHARACTERISTICS

- **Click work** (2% respondents) → much likely to escape the **classical notion of control** and subordination.
- 28% of platform workers **do not set their own tariffs**

## MONOPSONISTIC LABOUR MARKETS

- Platform economy & emergence of companies with **excessively strong labour market power**
- **depressive effect on wages and labour conditions** in the whole industry

SPACE FOR A **NEW PARADIGM MODEL**  
DIRECTLY CONNECTED WITH POWER  
IMBALANCE:



LINKING LABOUR RIGHTS TO SITUATION OF  
**IMPOSED ACQUIESCENCE**  
TO ACCEPT LABOUR CONDITIONS THAT  
WORKERS HAVE LITTLE OR NO POSSIBILITY  
TO NEGOTIATE

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LABOUR RIGHTS TO ALL THOSE PERFORMING WORK  
IN PRESENCE OF **ALGORITHMIC MANAGEMENT**

## PROPOSED DIRECTIVE PLATFORM WORK

Presumption positive but still centred on notion of **control**

Definition of platform work **too narrow** & based on organization

## PROPOSED GUIDELINES ON COLLECTIVE BARGAINING & COMP. LAW

Acknowledges normative relevance of **power imbalance as justification to expand scope of labour rights**

**Momentum ?** Also economic justification beyond this approach



**THANK YOU!**