

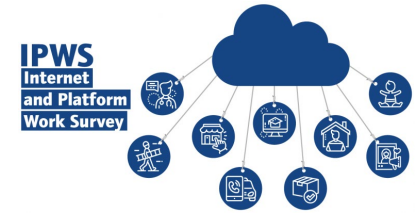
Internet and platform work survey

Wouter Zwysen
Senior Researcher
ETUI

IPWS
Internet
and Platform
Work Survey



ETUI Internet and Platform Work Survey (IPWS)



1. 2018-2019



5 countries
 $n=4,731$

2. Spring 2021



14 countries
 $n=24,108$

3. Autumn 2021



8 countries
 $n=12,032$

Online labour markets: the use of the internet to generate income

Internet work

Platform work

Activities 1-5 and 10
if performed through
digital labour platforms

1. Remote clickwork
2. Remote professional work
3. On-location work
4. Transport
5. Delivery
6. Influencer
7. Renting
8. Sell self-made products online
9. Sell or re-sell other products online
10. Other freelance services or tasks

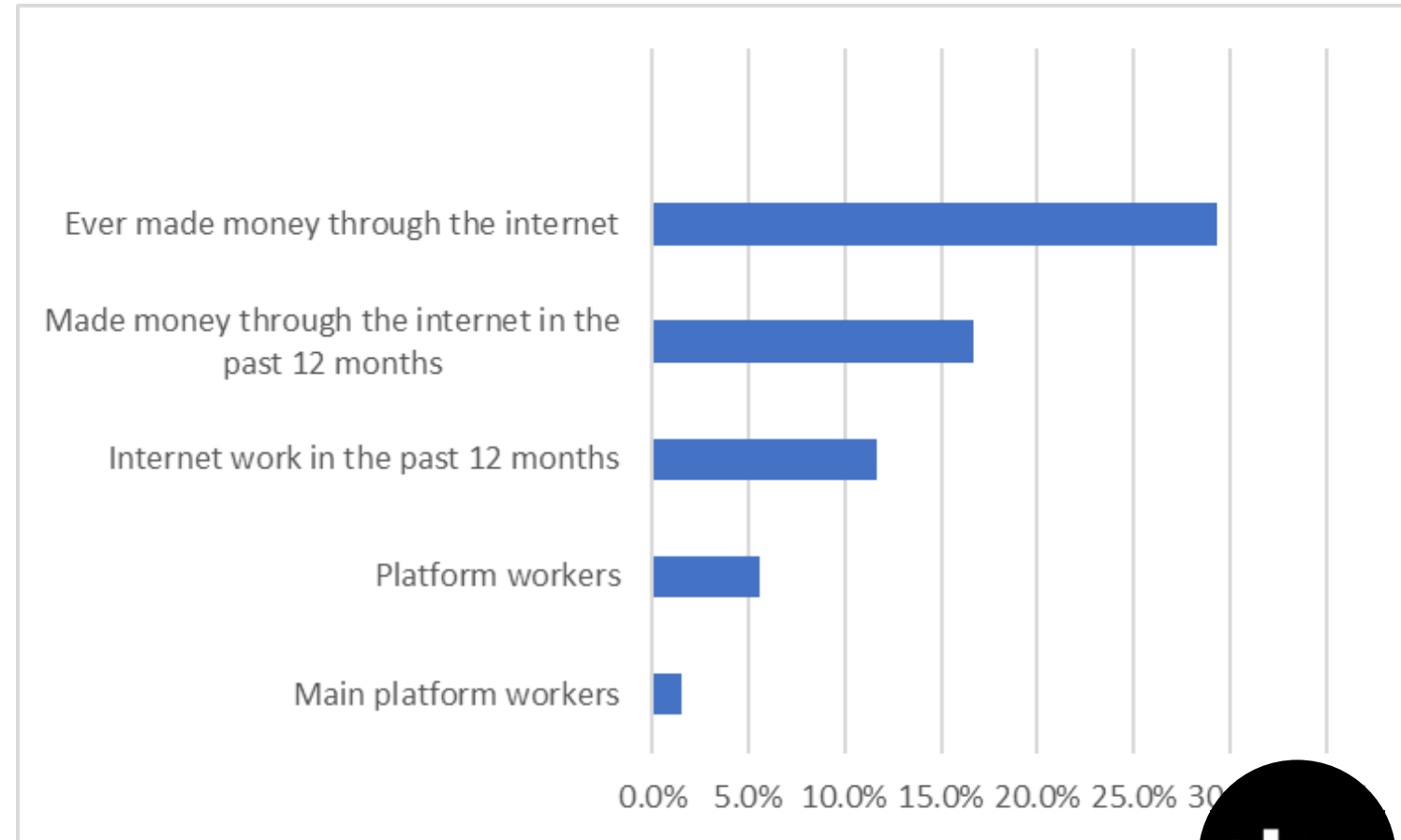
Platform work

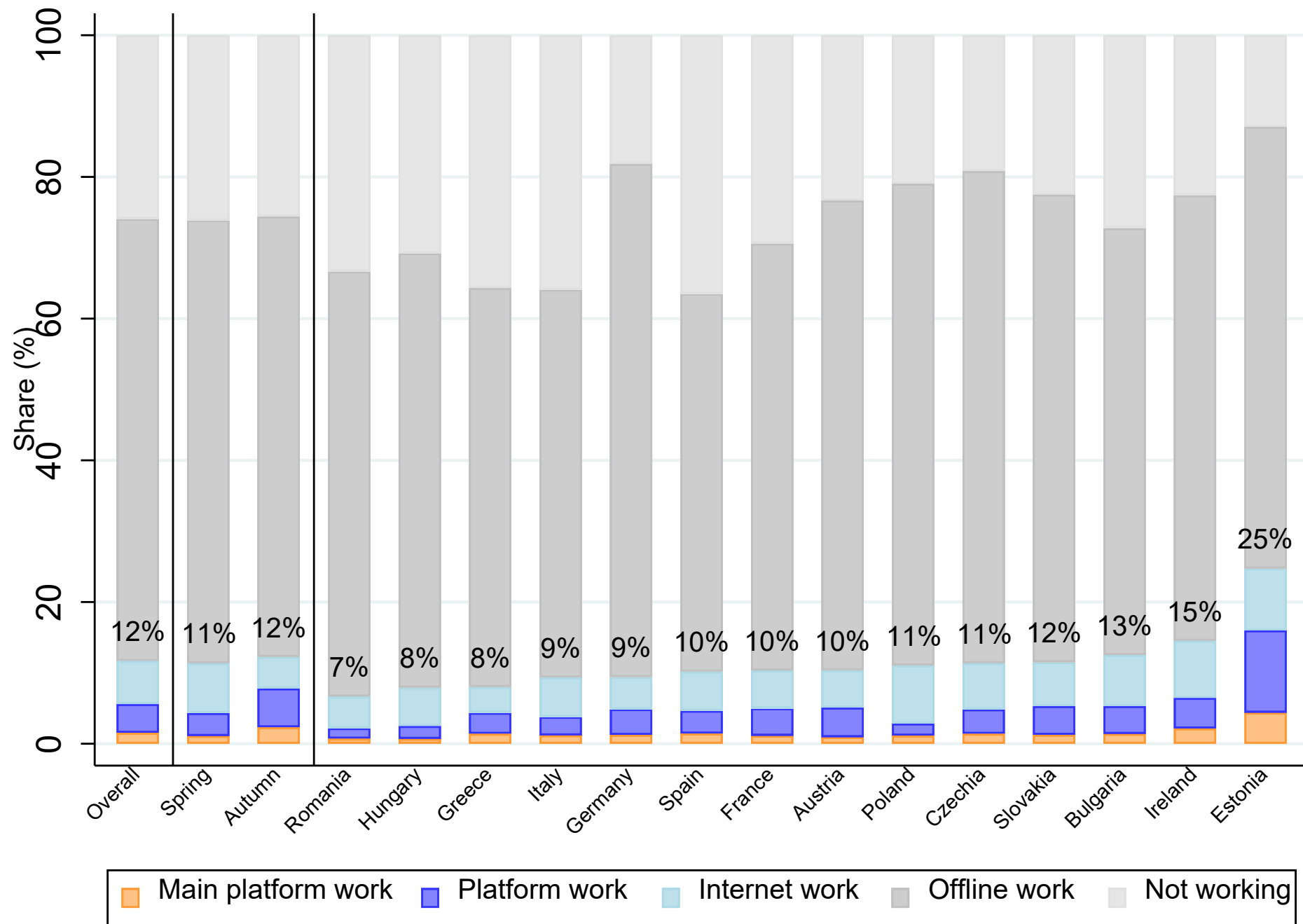
Platform work

How big is the internet and platform economy

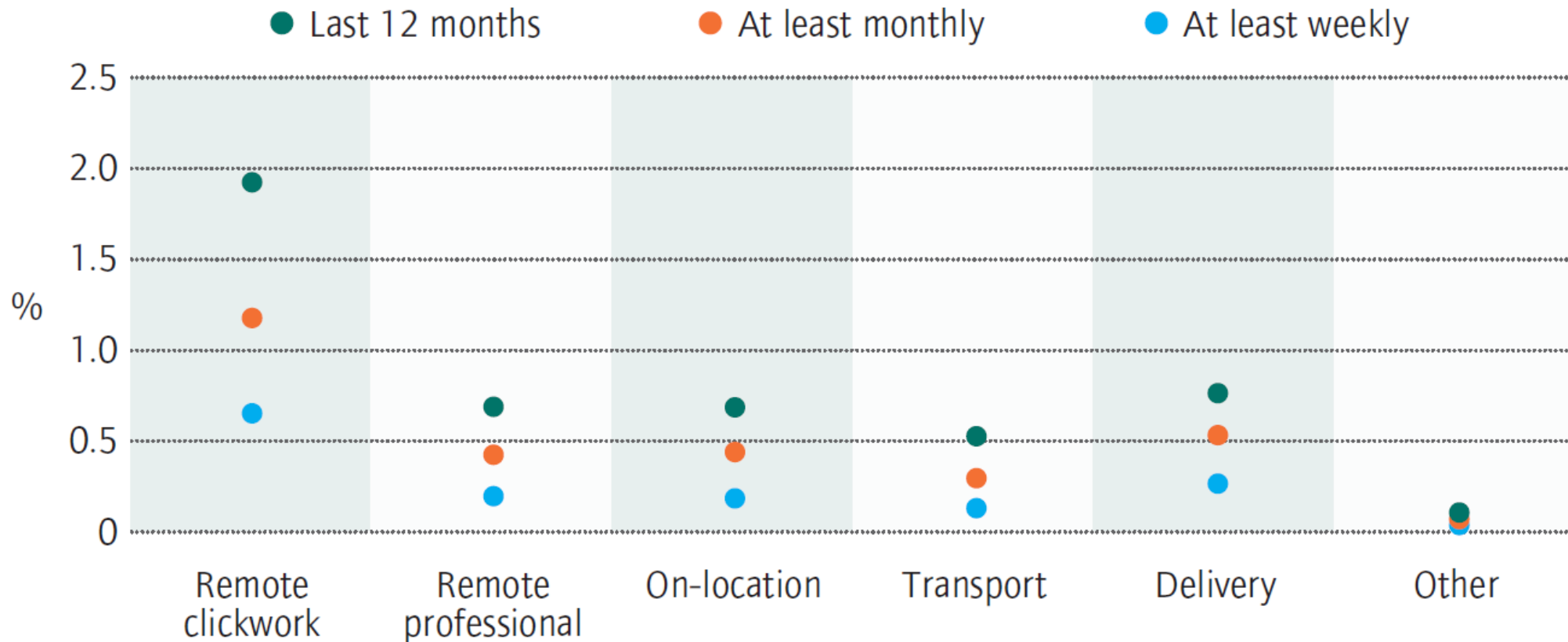
- In the EU27 in 2021:
 - › internet workers
 - › **11.7%** **32.7 million**
 - › platform workers
 - 5.6%** **15.6 million**
 - › main platform workers*
 - 1.6%** **4.3 million**

- * At least 50% of income or 20h/week

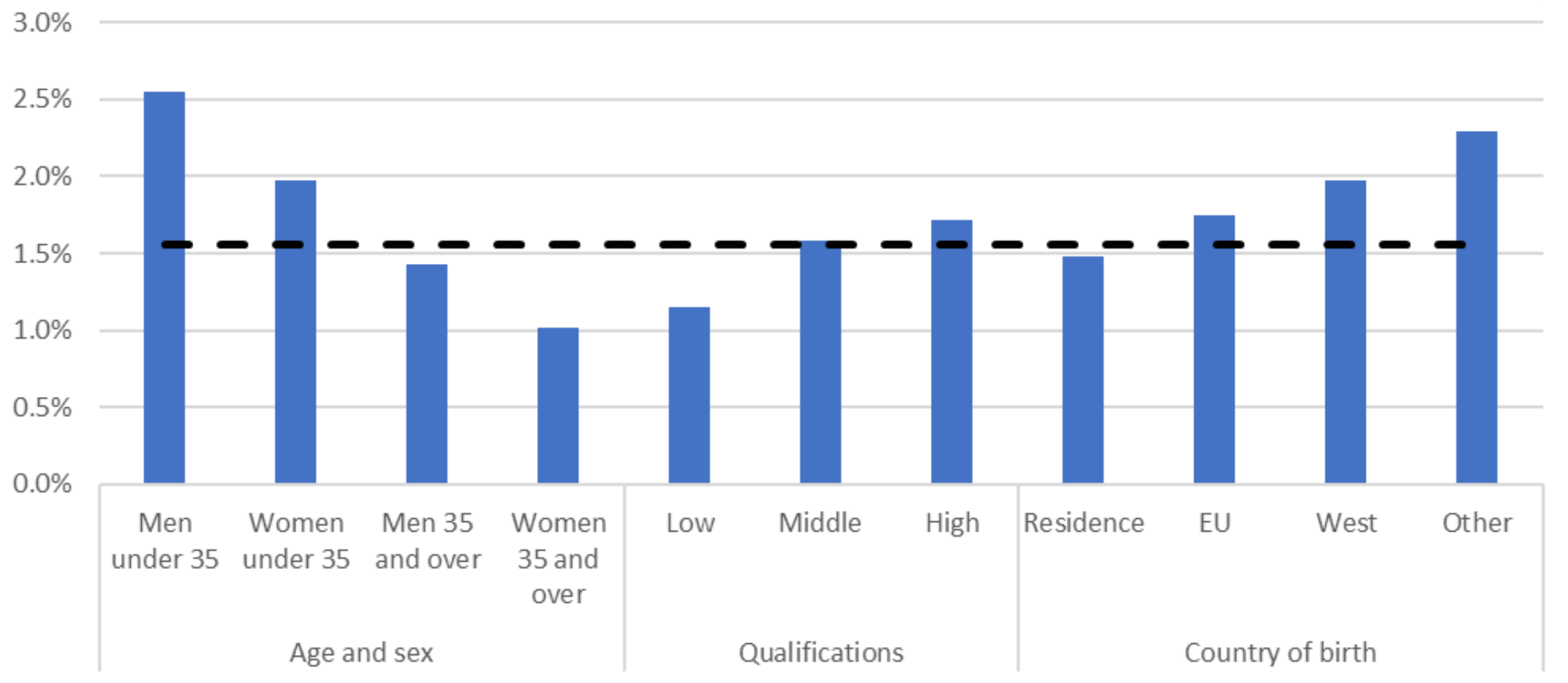




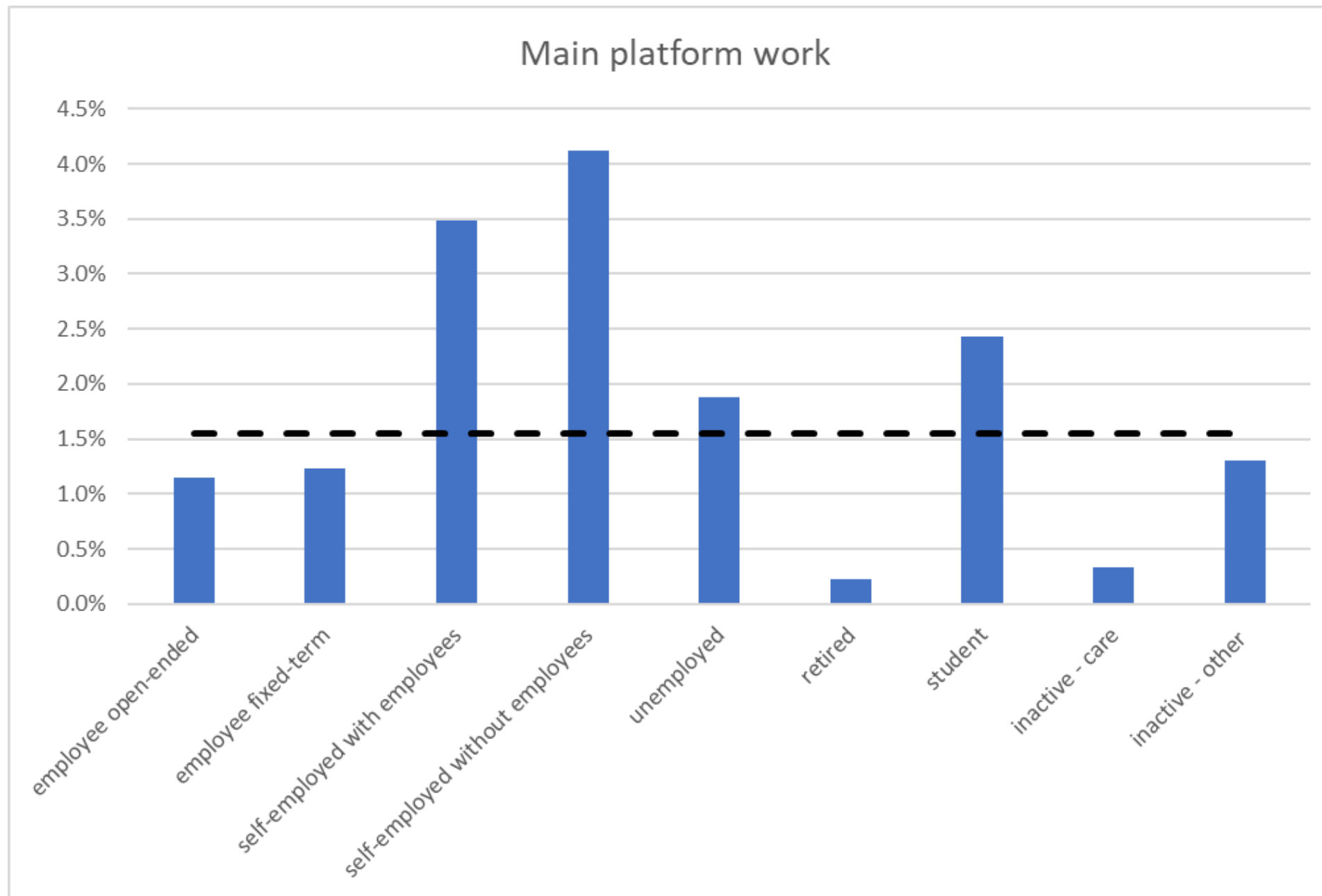
Tip of an iceberg: Remote clickwork the most common activity among platform work. Emblematic transport and delivery considerably smaller



Main platform work

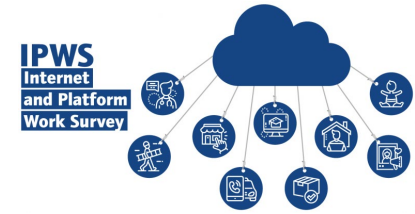


Source: Spring and Autumn waves 2021



Source: Spring and Autumn waves 2021

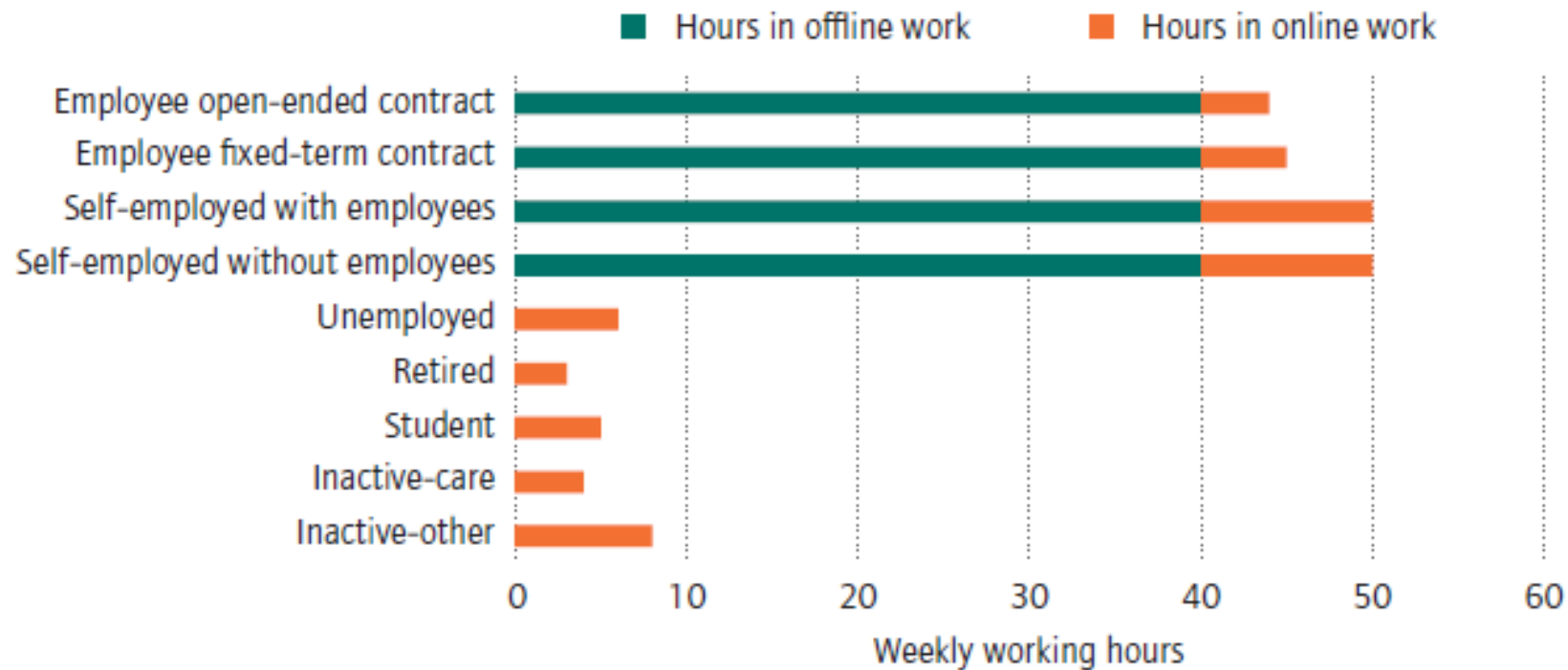
Take-away: who does platform work?



- Socio-demographic differences
 - Gender (men, but by task)
 - Age (young, but not exclusively)
 - Education (generally higher)
 - Migration (more TCN)
- Employment relation
 - Most are already employed, but more precariously
 - Not primarily inactive or unemployed
 - Students, but not only
- But: differences less stark than in other surveys (e.g. COLLEEM)
 - Not completely different workforce

On average 5-10 hours per week

Figure 43 Hours worked (median) offline and online by labour market status

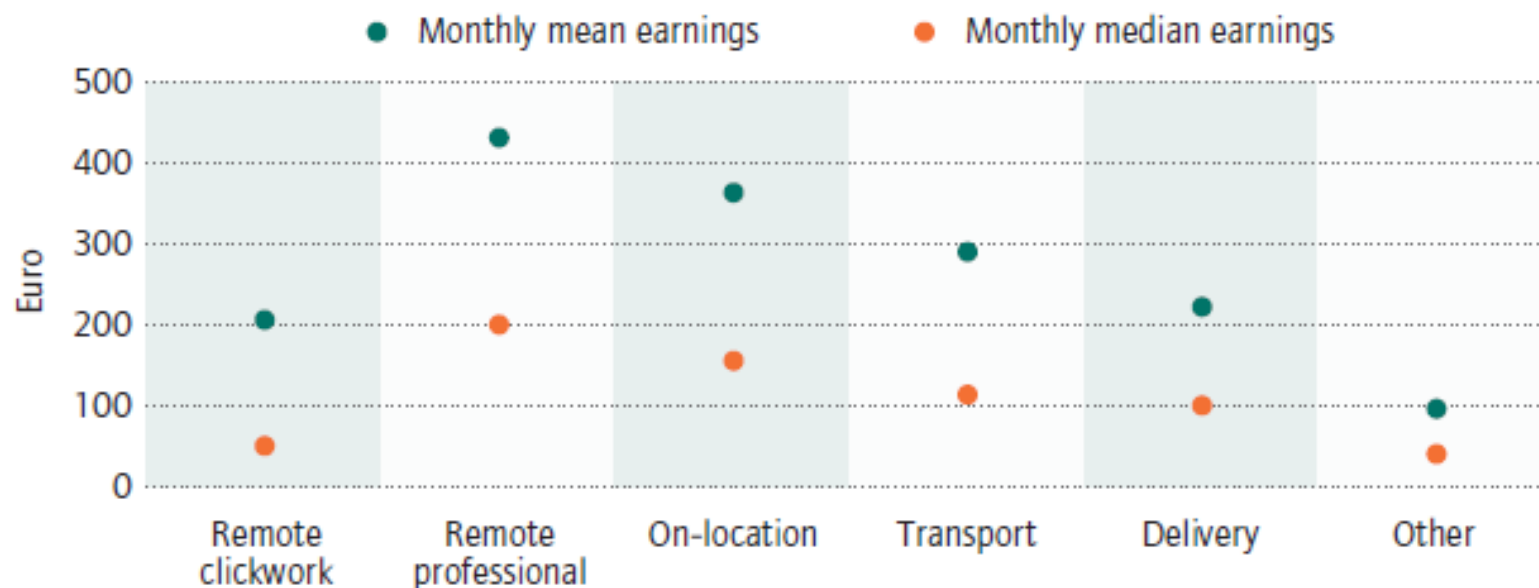


Source: ETUI IPWS.

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50-200 euro/month

Figure 38 Average monthly earnings from platform work by type (in euro)

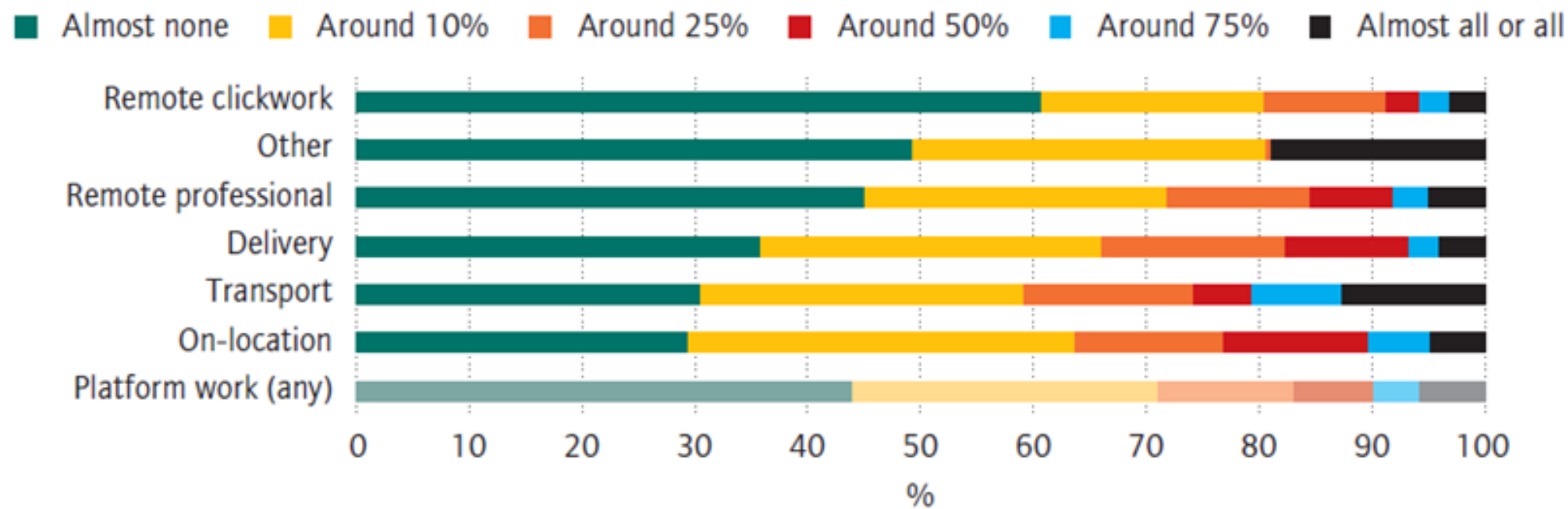


Note: Total monthly earnings are trimmed, by setting values above the 95th percentile in each country to the 95th percentile, as there are sizeable outliers in the data.

Source: ETUI IPWS.

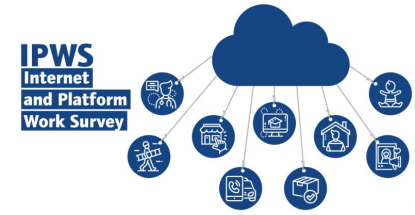
Relatively low shares of income

Figure 36 Contribution of platform work to annual personal income, by type of activity



Source: ETUI IPWS.

Low earnings despite time spent

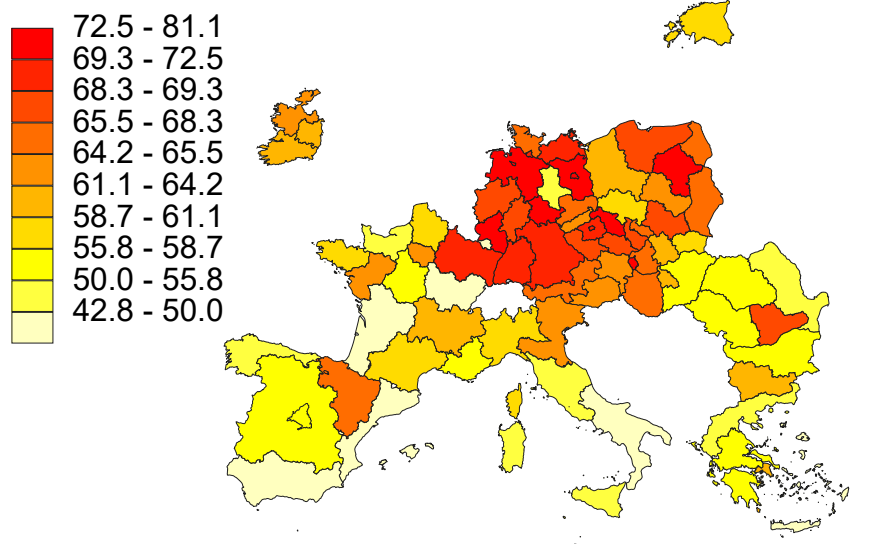


| | Median hours worked per week | Median earnings (euro) per month | Hourly earnings below minimum wage | N |
|--------------------------|------------------------------------|--|--|------|
| All platform workers | 7 | 143 | 51% | 1889 |
| Main platform worker | 22 | 400 | 51% | 570 |
| Remote clickwork | 5 | 80 | 52% | 826 |
| Remote professional work | 10 | 170 | 49% | 415 |
| On-location | 6 | 150 | 51% | 354 |
| Transport | 6 | 120 | 54% | 207 |
| Delivery | 8 | 128 | 50% | 323 |

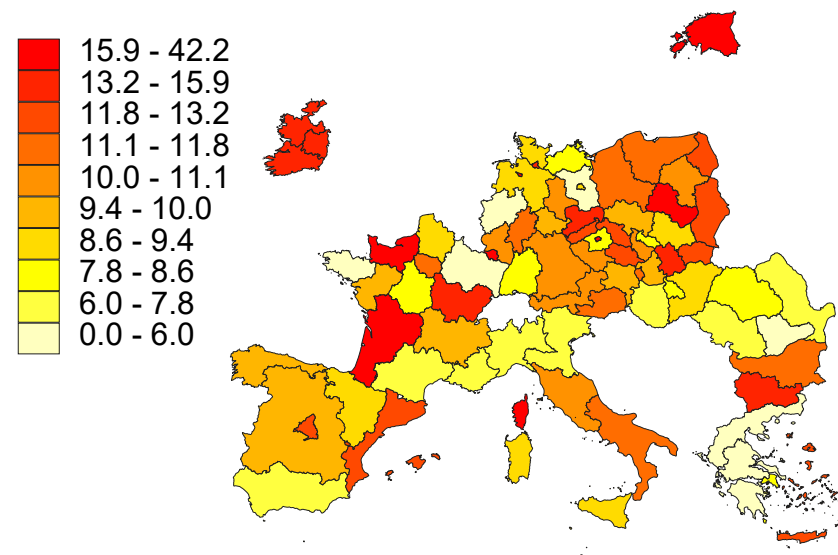
Source: Spring and Autumn waves 2021

Variation between regions

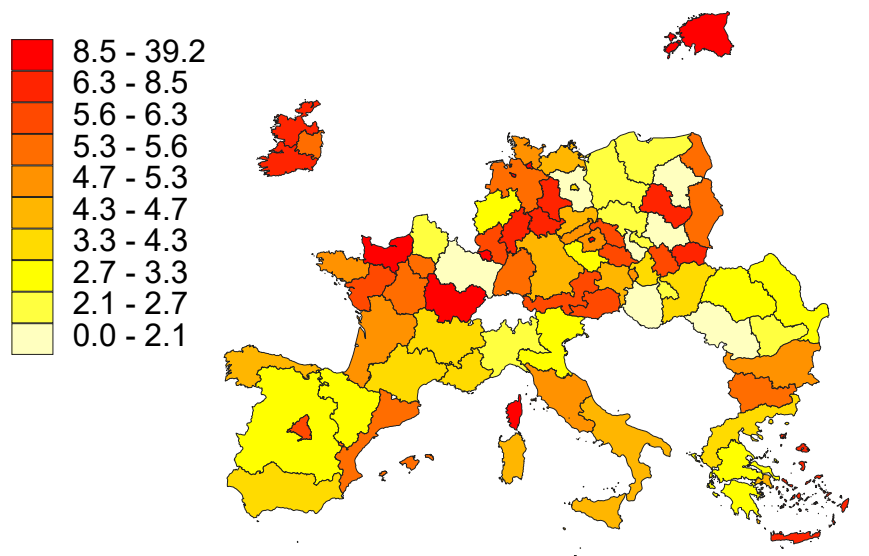
Offline work



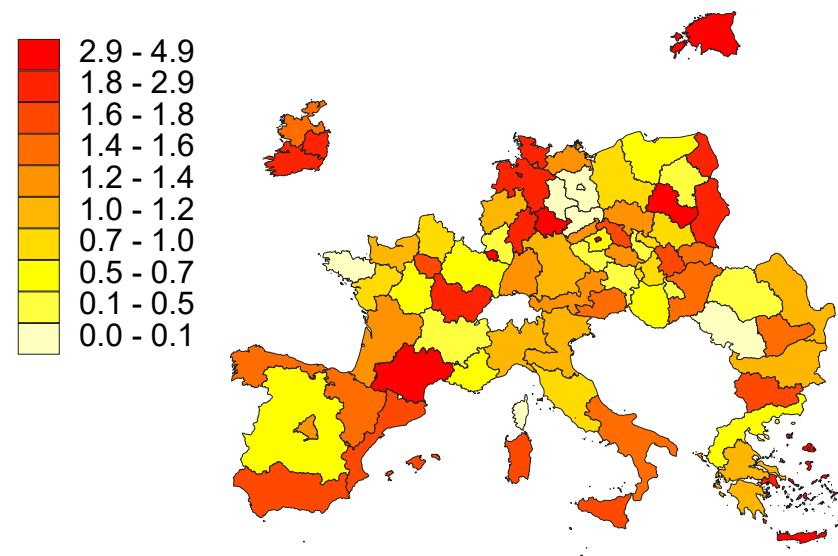
Internet work



Platform work

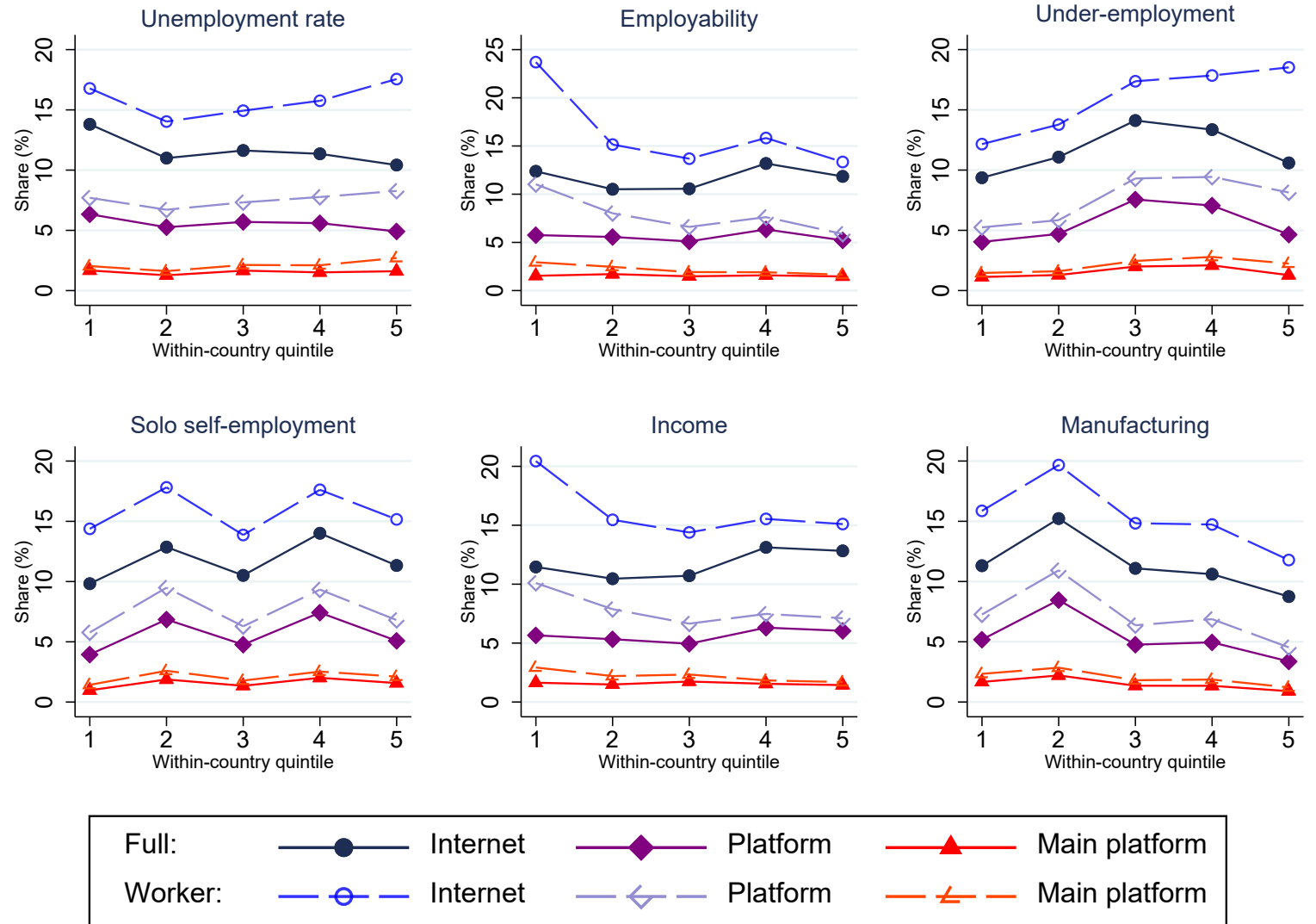


Main platform work



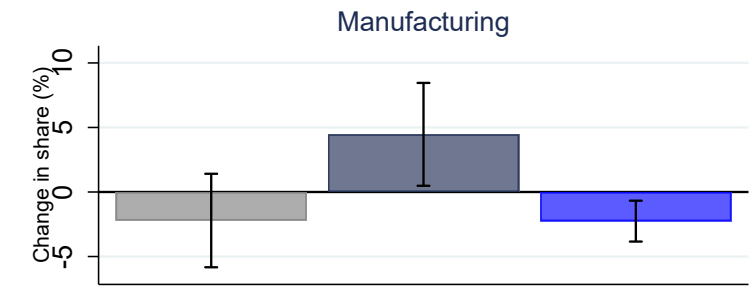
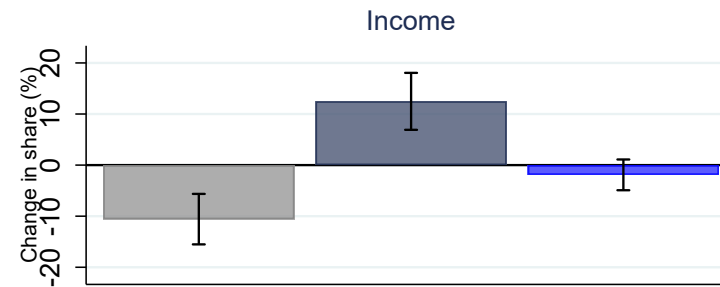
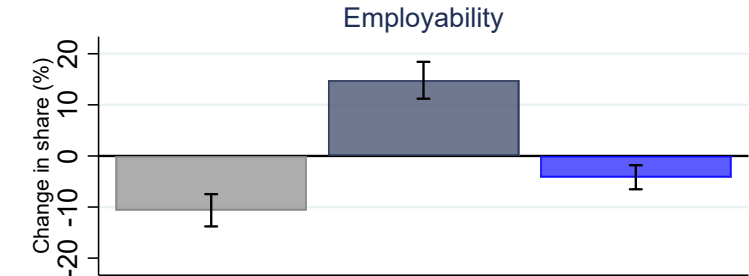
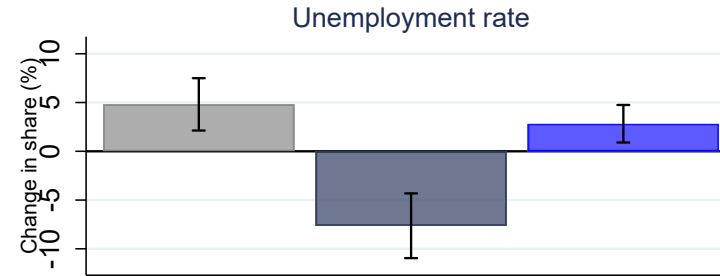
- Internet and platform work more likely (in combination with work) when:
 - High unemployment rate
 - High under-employment
 - Low employability
 - Low average income
 - Low share manufacturing

→ Worse offline opportunities



Estimated share of internet, platform, main platform work depending on within-country quantiles (lowest 20%, ..., highest 20%).

- Similar direction to not working
- Higher unemployment
- Higher under-employment
- Lower share manufacturing



Note: Estimated share of not working, only working offline, or (also) working on the internet, controlling for age, gender, education, country.

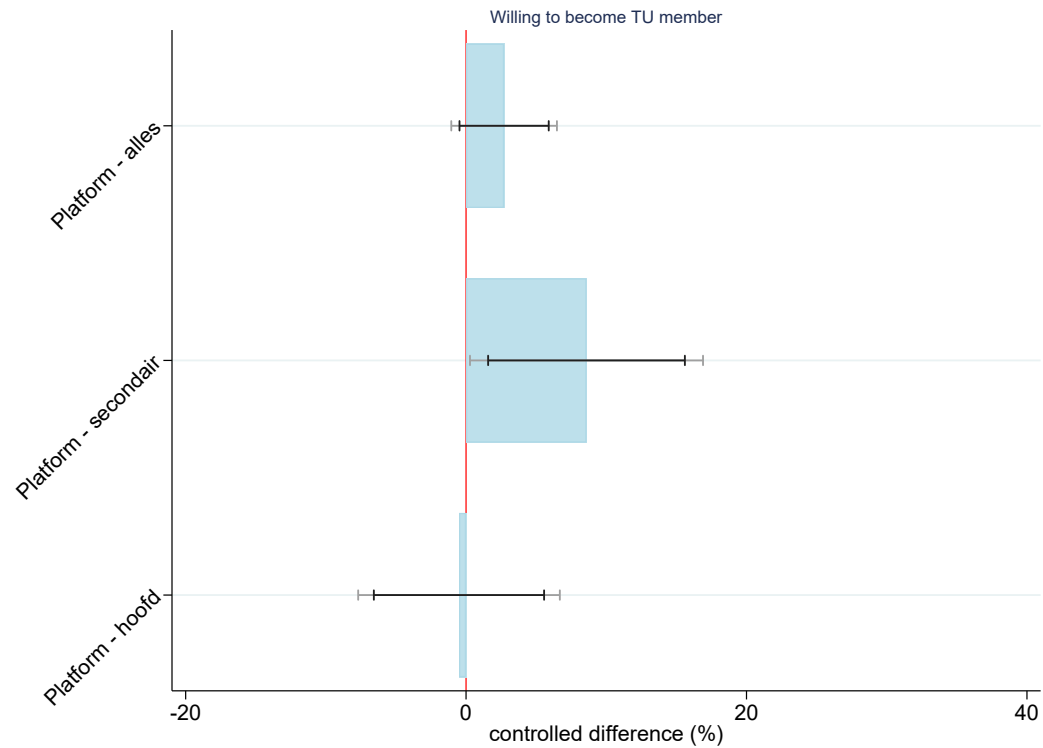
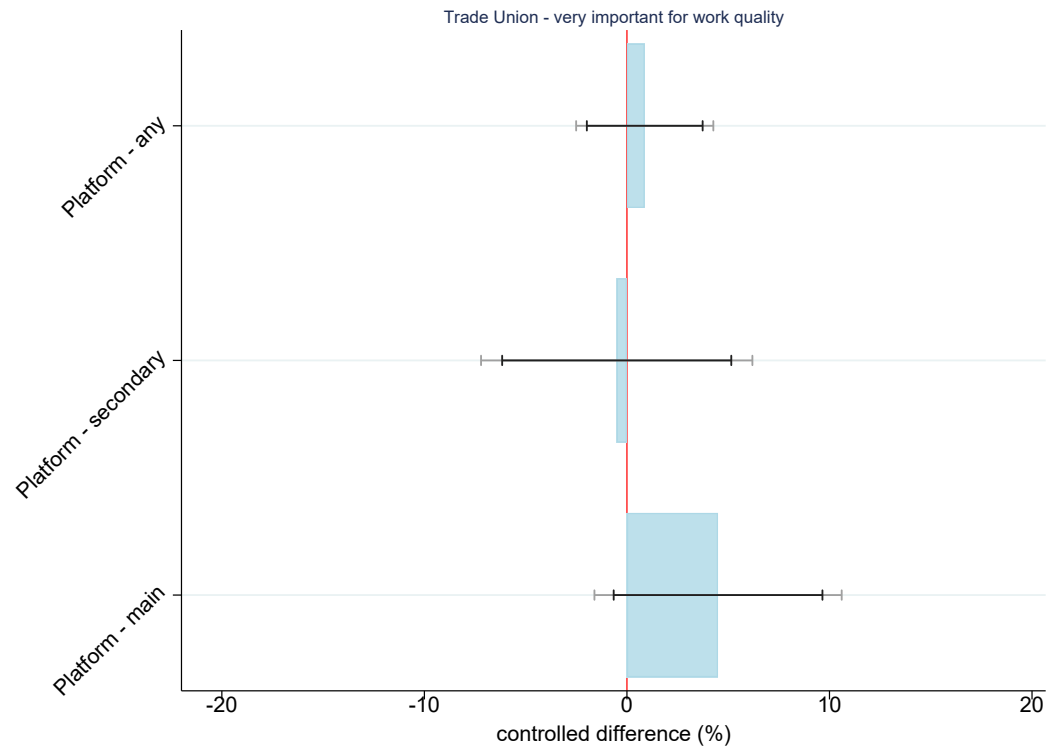
Internet and platform work as last resort

- In regions with fewer offline opportunities
- Not a shift from not working – no activation
- The worse offline opportunities are – the more people to internet and platform work.

New technologies, but same issues

- Platform work characterized by new technologies
 - Can connect a geographically dispersed workforce
 - Monitor and evaluate work
 - Can be difficult to organise
- ‘They like the flexibility’
- Same issues return
 - Hours and pay
 - Unpaid hours
 - Stable income
 - Management (ratings)
 - Health and safety

Attitudes towards trade unions



Estimated relation (95% and 90% C.I.) between platform work and whether trade unions are seen as very important for work quality (left) and whether those who are not currently TU members would become members in the near future, controlling for employment status, education, age, gender, child in the household.

What role for unions?

- Platform workers are not anti-union
- Often less experience
- Some examples of grassroots organizing, and connection with traditional unions.

Conclusions

- Internet and platform work is still a small part of the economy
- But it is growing and has large potential
- Conditions generally not great -> need for protection
- There is scope for representation and trade unions

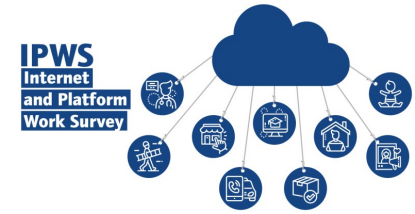
The platform economy in Europe

Results from the second ETUI
Internet and Platform Work Survey

Agnieszka Piasna, Wouter Zwysen
and Jan Drahokoupil

Working Paper 2022.05

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Report download and further information:

<https://www.etui.org/publications/platform-economy-europe>

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