



Crowd Work in the European Gig Economy

Employment in the era of online platforms

Conference on the Launch of the Report

28th November 2017, 10:45-17:00

FEPS Office. Rue Montoyer, 40. 1000 Brussels

This is a FEPS, UNI Europa and University of Hertfordshire event

There is much talk about the disruptive potential of digitalisation and the sharing economy on labour markets. But surprisingly little is known about the realities of 'gig work' and the new types of employment created by online platforms. Is it a liberating new form of self-employment or a new form of exploitation? How many workers are doing it? Who are they? Is it their main source of income or a top-up to other kinds of work? What is the reality of their working lives? And what are the implications of these new realities for public policy in Europe?

FEPS and UNI Europa, in partnership with the University of Hertfordshire, present on November 28th the study "**Work in the European Gig Economy – Research results from the UK, Sweden, Germany, Austria, the Netherlands, Switzerland and Italy**". The report presents the results of an innovative survey across seven European countries, revealing, for the first time, the extent and characteristics of crowd workers.

The event is an occasion to promote an open debate on the new forms of labour; a debate that is relevant for both academic and policy-relevant research. To this end, speakers for institutions, academia, unions, new businesses and think tanks gather at FEPS on November 28th.

Programme:

- 10:45-11:15 **Welcome address**
Dr Ernst Stetter, Secretary General of Foundation for European Progressive Studies (FEPS)
Oliver Röthig, Regional Secretary of UNI Europa
- 11:15-12:10 **Presentation of the Report ‘Crowd Work in the European Gig Economy’**

Presentation by the Hertfordshire School of Business:
Ursula Huws, Professor of Labour and Globalisation
Dr Neil Spencer, Reader in Applied Statistics
Kaire Holts, Research Fellow

Chair: Dr David Rinaldi, Senior Economic Policy Advisor, FEPS
- 12:10-13:00 **Discussion on the Results of the Research**
 - Inge Bernaerts, Head of Commissioner Thyssen’s Cabinet, Belgium
 - Ivana Pais, Associate Professor at the Catholic University of the Sacred Heart, Italy
 - Philip Schörpf, Researcher, FORBA, Austria**Chair:** Dr David Rinaldi, Senior Economic Policy Advisor, FEPS
- 13:00-14:15 Lunch
- 14:15-15:15 **Presentations of Positive Alternatives and Initiatives to Shape our Future**
 - Peter Hunt, Managing Director, Mutuo, UK
 - Katarina Lundahl, Chief Economist, Unionen, Sweden
 - Allan Mayo, Smart Cities Strategist, Digital Greenwich Initiative, UK
 - Matthew Parsons, Outlandish, UK**Chair:** Dr Lisa Kastner, Policy Advisor, FEPS
- 15:15-15:30 Coffee Break
- 15:30-16:45 **Policy Developments – Is there Need for Better Regulation?**
 - Dr Christina Colclough, Director Platform & Agency Workers, Digitalisation and Trade at UNI Global Union, Switzerland
 - Valerio de Stefano, BOFZAP Professor of Labor Law at KU Leuven, Belgium
 - Dr Jan Drahokoupil, Senior researcher, ETUI, Belgium
 - Nicholas Costello, Deputy Head of Unit, DG EMPL E.1, Unit Job Creation, European Commission, Belgium**Chair:** Aileen Körfer, Policy Officer, UNI Europa
- 16:45-17:00 **Closing Remarks**
Dr Joachim Schuster, MEP, S&D, Germany