

# ▶ Digital platform employment -State of play and next steps

## A strong need for statistics on DP work and employment

Examples of this data include the following:

- ▶ The prevalence of DPE.
- ▶ The trends of DPE over time.
- ▶ Detailed statistics such as characteristics of the people carrying out DP work, characteristics of the work, working conditions etc.

**Data is needed to create a common understanding of the extent and situation of persons carrying out DP work.**



## ► Data is needed to understand the impact of DPE



### **Job Creation vs. Replacement**

Does digital platform employment create new jobs or is it a transformation of already existing ones?



### **Flexibility and control over the work**

Does digital platform employment provide more flexibility for workers or reduce their authority to control their work?



### **Access to Social Protection**

How does digital platform employment impact on the access to social protection and employment benefits?



### **Worker dependency**

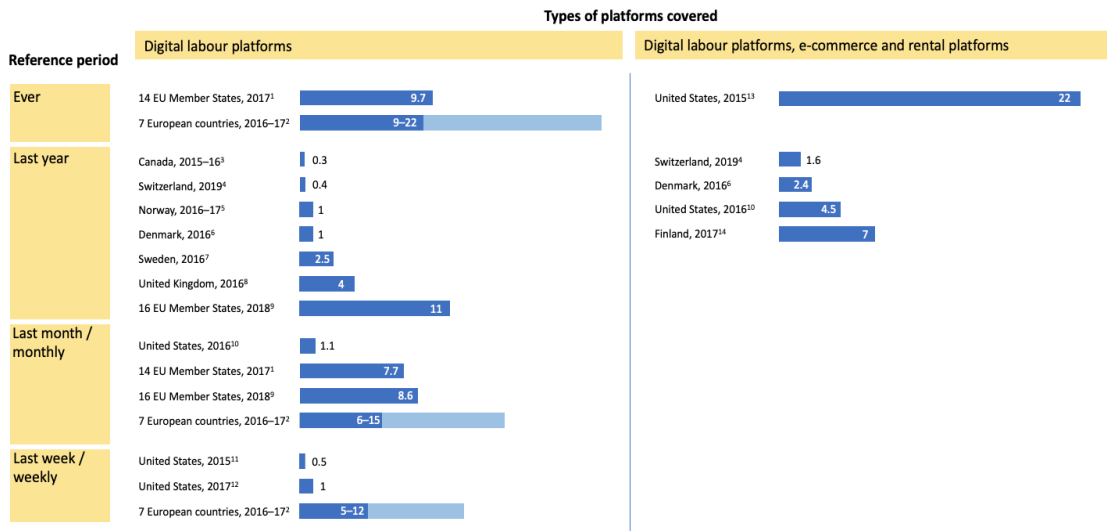
How dependent are workers on digital platforms as a source of employment and income?

**Etc...**

# To meet this need different attempts to measure different aspects of DPE has been done.

## Different statistical concepts and measurements.

- ▶ Several countries, organizations have measured DPE– by using different concepts, definitions, sources, and methodology
- ▶ Still big data gaps, globally



## A limited and diverse landscape of statistics on DPE:

- ▶ The topic is characterized by the existence of several different terms, concepts and definitions with different underlying objectives, boundaries and scope.
- ▶ This hampers discussions, the understanding of statistics and the methodological development.
- ▶ We need to be sure of what to measure, before we can decide on how to measure it.

## ▶ Need for further work

### 20<sup>th</sup> ICLS in 2018

- ▶ “Employment through digital platforms” was discussed as part of the adoption of the 20<sup>th</sup> ICLS resolution.
- ▶ Conclusion that it was too premature to address this topic.
- ▶ The ILO was recommended to undertake further conceptual and methodological development work.

### Work conducted since the 20<sup>th</sup> ICLS

- ▶ Assisted countries in their attempts to measure DPE.
- ▶ Participating in the Eurostat TF on DPE
- ▶ Contributing to the OECD, ILO and Eurostat *Handbook on measuring digital platform employment and work*
  - Published in 2023
  - First step towards addressing the need for a more comprehensive and harmonized statistical framework that builds on the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> ICLS resolutions.

## OECD-ILO-EUROSTAT handbook

### Provides input on definitions of respectively

- Digital platforms
- Digital platform work
- Digital platform employment

### Provides a conceptual framework for DP-work

- Flexible framework enabling countries to focus on the components of relevance in the country.

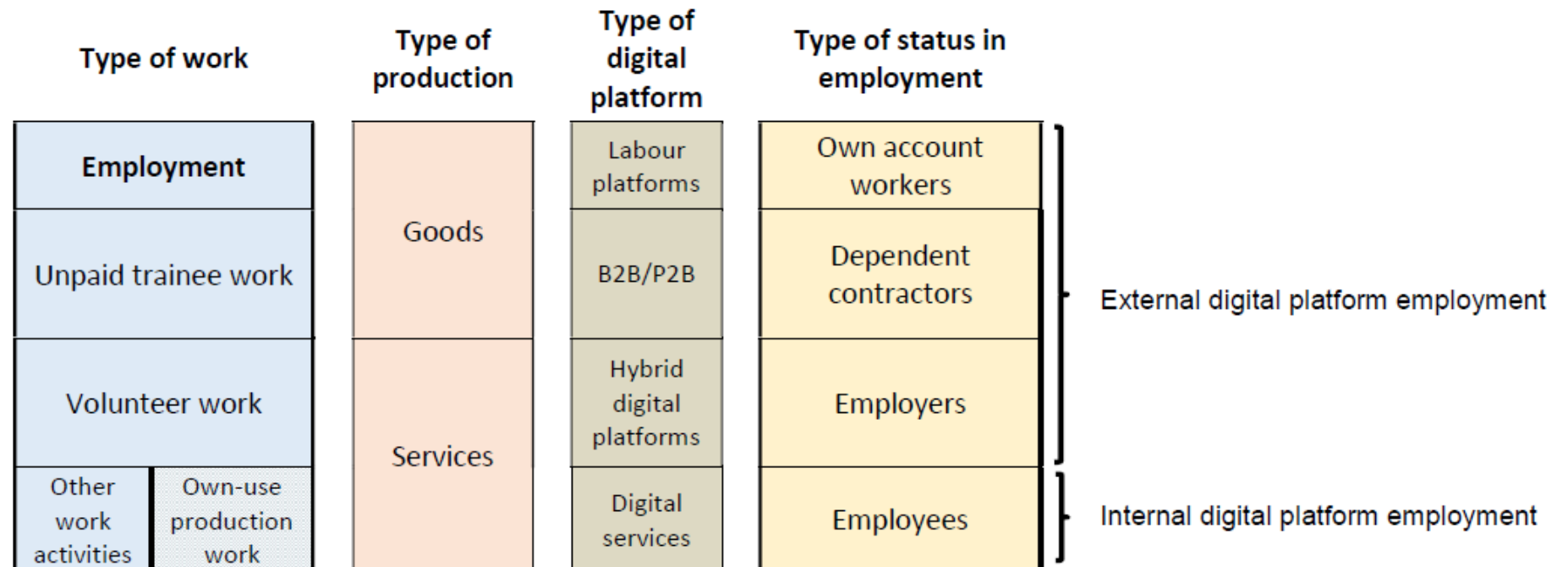
### Describes experiences by countries of measurement



## Handbook on Measuring Digital Platform Employment and Work



- ▶ The statistical framework consists of a component-based framework that incorporates different layers of digital platform work and employment:
- ▶ Enables the measurement of the components of DPE that are of interest, depending on objectives and available sources, while ensuring transparency of the specific boundaries used.
- ▶ A measurement can focus on the “total” DPE or on a specific component(s).

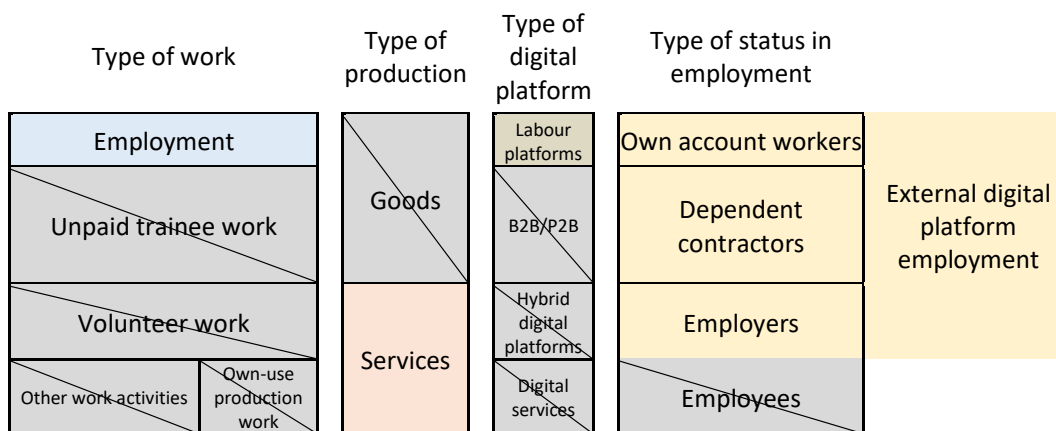




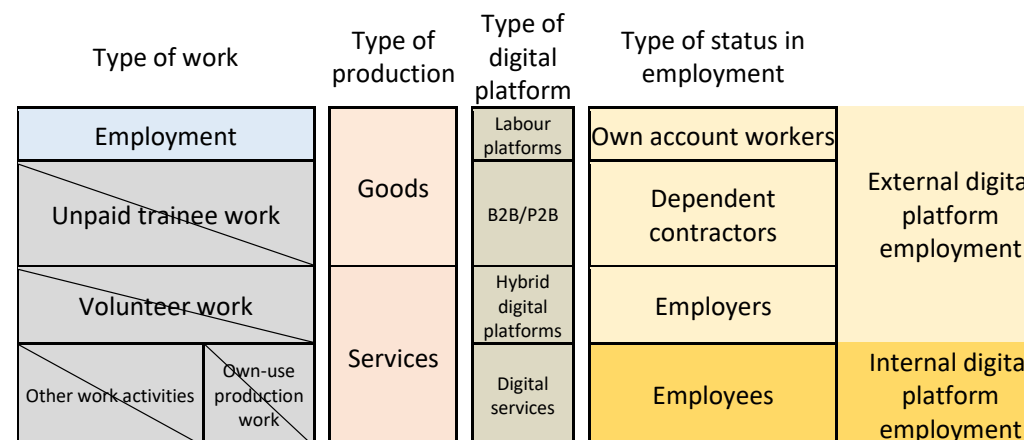
# Contribute to clarify differences in measurements

## Intended conceptual scope

*Bureau of Labour Statistics (BLS) 2017*



*Eurostat pilot 2022*



- ▶ The framework can contribute to create more statistical transparency around the indented scope, components included etc. while being flexible.



# A need for further development

## Definition of digital platform work and employment

- ▶ One of the main challenges is to provide an effective definition with clear boundaries.
- ▶ The definition provided in the OECD handbook is an important step forward but still creates ambiguous cases, which need to be addressed.

## Indicators

- ▶ More work is needed to recommend the indicators to produce once data has been collected.
- ▶ Indicators should be policy relevant and meet the different policy needs

## The different components and layers.

- ▶ A more thoroughly discussion is needed around the different components of the DPE framework is needed.
- ▶ Do they capture the different relevant components of DPE, considering the different needs for statistics?

## Recommendations for data collection

- ▶ How can different sources be used in a complementary way: HH -surveys, Specialized surveys, admin-based register, big data etc.
- ▶ Provide stronger recommendation for collecting data in HH-surveys.
- ▶ Should build on the experiences already made.

# Learning points from measuring DPE in LFS

## -Measuring DPE requires several operational decisions



### Screening questions

#### Minimalistic approach:

-Tends to lead to misunderstanding, high share of false positives and negatives.

#### Multiple questions:

-Higher response burden.  
-Captures a broader range of DPE activities



### A strategy to deal with false positives

#### Collecting the name of the DP

#### List based approach

-Matching the name with a pre-defined list.

#### - Include additional questions

-Are payments made, or clients received through the DP  
-Test the boundaries



### Target population

#### Employed only

-Creates a direct link to information already collected (industry, occupation working time etc.)  
-A significant number of DPE among non-employed persons.

#### All persons in working age

-Seems to capture a larger share of DPE.  
-Is necessary if a longer reference period is used



### Reference period

#### Short reference period (ref week)

Makes it possible to link to other labour indicators, e.g. share of DPE out of tot employment.  
Problematic if low prevalence of DPE.

#### Long reference periode (12, 6 month)

Increases the occurrence and thereby the sample of DP workers.  
Issues with recalling which impacts on the quality

#### Mixed reference periods

Asking first in relation to a long reference period and then in relation to a shorter

**The decisions impacts on the results, and we need to be able to provide stronger recommendations for countries.**

# Strong need for further conceptual and methodological development

## Was discussed at the 21st ICLS, strong support to develop statistical guidelines on Digital platform work and employment

- ▶ Provide strengthened definitions and stronger recommendations for data collection by the use of different statistical sources. Support countries in producing policy relevant statistics in a more harmonized way
- ▶ Needs to be a flexible and agile standard
- ▶ Presented and discussed at the 22'nd ICLS in 2028.

### Next steps

#### Working group has been established in 2024

- ▶ Countries from all regions, observers (organizations), employers and workers representatives.
- ▶ Needs to be closely linked to the work done on the policy side.

#### ILO standard setting process 2025/2026

Standard on *Decent work and digital platform economy*



# Thank you