Measuring internet-mediated platform work in Switzerland

Meeting of the Group of Experts on Measuring Quality of Employment
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Swiss ad-hoc module on internet-mediated platform work

- Module conducted for first time during 2019
- SLFS: CATI
- Module at the end of main questionnaire, after EU-module on WTA, only 1/3 (random selection) of the 1st wave
- Total annual sample of the module: ca. 12’000
- All persons are interviewed:
  - employed persons / ILO unemployed / inactive persons
  - 15 years or more
Demand for information on platform work in Switzerland

- Federal Social Insurance Office (FSIO): influence on social insurance system
- State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO): legislation of labour market, measurement of new forms of work
- General interest for data on platform work
- Main objective: estimate the importance of platform work in Switzerland
Definition used for the module

Triangular relationship:

Introduction text at the beginning of the module:

*Internet platforms and apps make new income opportunities possible today. You are put in contact with the client and generally paid directly via the platform.*
Filter questions (1)

Definition through four filter questions with concrete examples:

• **Accommodation**: Have you rented a room, apartment or a house to somebody via an internet platform or app such as *Airbnb* or *Flipkey* in the past 12 months?

• **Taxi services**: Have you provided taxi services via an internet platform or app such as for example *Uber* or *Lyft* in the past 12 months?
Filter questions (2)

- **Sale of goods**: Have you sold goods via an internet platform or app such as *Ricardo or Ebay* in the past 12 months? Please only answer “yes” if you previously collected, bought or produced the goods with the specific aim of reselling them.

- **Other services**: Have you provided other services via an internet platform or app such as cleaning, handiwork, delivery services or online programming in the past 12 months?
  
  → if response=Yes, new question on type of service
Filter questions (3)

The four questions allow flexibility in the choice of scope:

- Broader definition including all types of services
- Narrower definition with one type of service; or excluding sale of goods and renting for example
Further topics of the module

- Reason for this form of work
- Main / second / additional job
- Since when are these services provided
- Regularity
- Number of hours
- Income
- Name of platform / app (only for plausibility checks)
Concluding remarks

First results: May 2020

Conclusion from provisional analysis of 1st quarter 2019:

• Platform work very unfrequent in Switzerland
• Plausibility checks very important, based on:
  • Hours worked
  • Income
  • Named platforms
  • Interviewers’ additional comments (confusion between offering and using the service)
Thank you for your attention!