Online Platforms and Platform Work
Portugal

- ✔ ✘ Legally binding definition of online platforms
- ✔ ✘ Specific register of online platforms
- ✔ ✘ Specific regulation applicable to online platforms
- ✔ ✘ Online platforms are considered to be employers

Law No.45/2018, popularly known as the 'Uber Law', defines an electronic platform, making reference to passenger transport services as platforms that 'organise and make available to interested parties the individual and remunerated mode of transport of passengers in unmarked vehicles.' The law also governs the employment status of individual platform workers and introduces a presumption of employment.

16%

Based on the COLLEEM survey, **nearly 16% of adult Internet users in Portugal have provided services via platforms at some time.**

TOP 5

Portuguese workers are amongst the **"Top 5" in providing digital services** in creative and media technology, translations or software development for such platforms as Upwork and Freelancer.

Nearly as many women as men spend at least 10 hours a week working on platforms. The gender ratio depends on the sector, however, with transport and delivery services being dominated by male workers.

Uber   Glovo   Uber Eats

Bolt Food   Takeaway.com   Cabify

**The market is dominated by international platforms for the growing transport and food delivery sectors.**

The most popular online platforms currently operating in Portugal are **Uber**, **Glovo** and **Uber Eats**, although other platforms such as **Bolt**, **TakeAway** and **Cabify** have entered the Portuguese market.

One of the Portuguese platforms, **EatTasty**, has been operating since 2016. The platform has also been successful in entering the Spanish market.

The accelerating ascendancy of platform work in Portugal has been largely attributed to economic decline as a result of the financial crisis. **Many people have started looking for alternative sources of income due to high unemployment rates.**

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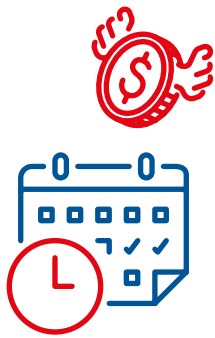
Qualitative studies suggest platform workers **face precarious working conditions** characterised by long working hours and unpredictable incomes. For example, newcomers working for Upwork need to invest more time and effort before they receive adequate remuneration for their labour. Some workers stated that it took them two years to earn a living wage. Many drivers work for different platforms at the same time. Some Uber drivers also use Bolt at the same time to obtain more clients and to earn more. The same is true of Glovo workers who also use Uber Eats.
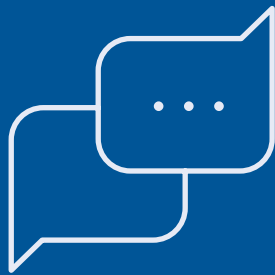
In the public sphere, the platform economy is being discussed mainly in connection with the 'Uberisation' of different sectors and the future of the Portuguese social model.

Some policymakers have been in favour of introducing a 'third way' that could provide a status between subordinate employment and self-employed to terminate widespread 'bogus' self-employment. Bloco de Esquerda political party has submitted a preliminary proposal for changes in the Labour Code. The General Confederation of Portuguese Workers (CGTP) and the main employers' confederation immediately voiced their opposition to this proposal, however.

The government has been discussing the 'Decent Work Agenda' with political parties and industrial relations partners following publication of the Green Book on the Future of Work, which also includes provisions stipulating AI at the workplace.

There are no collective agreements at any level covering platform workers in Portugal.

The Trade Union for Urban Transport (STRUP) has made significant strides in efforts to represent Uber drivers by supporting talks, protests and strikes in the country.

The Association of Inflexible Precarious has also been active in lobbying for legislation in parliament in order to improve working conditions for platform workers.

The North and South trade unions for the restaurant and food industry have made some attempts to organise an information campaign in the food delivery sector, although mobilisation has been very difficult so far.

Many workers use informal channels of support. There are Facebook and WhatsApp groups, for example, that provide support on different work-related issues to many platform workers in Portugal.

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