

GDPower is a collaborative research project on industrial relations in the platform economy in Austria, Belgium, France, Poland and Spain. It centres on two sectors, ride-hailing and food delivery, and explores three areas:

- The collection and use of worker data by digital labour platforms and its impact on worker well-being and their inclination to engage in collective actions.
- Strategies employed by social partners to negotiate and implement collective and company-level agreements in the platform economy. These agreements cover aspects like pay, working conditions, and the collection and use of worker data.
- The implementation, monitoring and enforcement of negotiated agreements.

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Associated Partners

- Austrian Trade Union Federation (ÖGB)
- Asociación Española de la Economía Digital (Adigital)
- Force Ouvrière (FO)
- The Collective CoopCycle

Recovering workers' data to negotiate and monitor collective agreements in the platform economy



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PROJECT AIMS

The central project goal is to support the development of industrial relations in the platform economy. To this end, GDPower pursues the following objectives:

- Analyse the strategies of workers, activists, trade unionists and employer groups for negotiating and implementing agreements on platform workers' pay, working conditions and the use of workers' data by platform companies.
- Advance and apply a novel method of data collection using data access and portability rights to audit the personal data collection and digital monitoring practices of platforms.
- Assess the implementation of and/or challenges to collective bargaining agreements in the location-based platform economy.
- Inform policy making and research on industrial relations in the platform economy by disseminating the project findings and research methods.

PROJECT METHODOLOGY

Information on strategies to negotiate and enforce agreements will be collected through desk research and focus groups with activists and social partner representatives.

Regarding worker data, GDPower builds on a methodology developed and pioneered by Hestia.Ai in which worker data is recovered from platforms by workers through GDPR requests and subsequently donated to researchers for joint analysis and interpretation.

To implement this method, the project team will organise in each participating country Data Recovery Workshops informing workers how to recover their data, Sense-Making Workshops in which researcher jointly with workers try to understand the recovered data and Focus Groups to discuss with workers how they feel about the collection of their data.

Where applicable, the data recovered by workers will also be used to monitor compliance with negotiated agreements.

PROJECT OUTPUTS

- Five country reports, covering Austria, Belgium, France, Spain, and Poland.
- One comparative report.
- Two academic manuscripts.

PROJECT EVENTS

- Data recovery and sense-making workshops with platform workers in each participating country.
- A one-day transnational Mutual Learning Event will be organised to facilitate the exchange of experiences and expertise between activists and social partner representatives from EU countries and EU candidate countries.
- One final conference to discuss and disseminate the project results to a wider audience.

PARTNERS

