



WORK IN THE EUROPEAN GIG ECONOMY

EMPLOYMENT IN THE ERA OF ONLINE PLATFORMS

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?

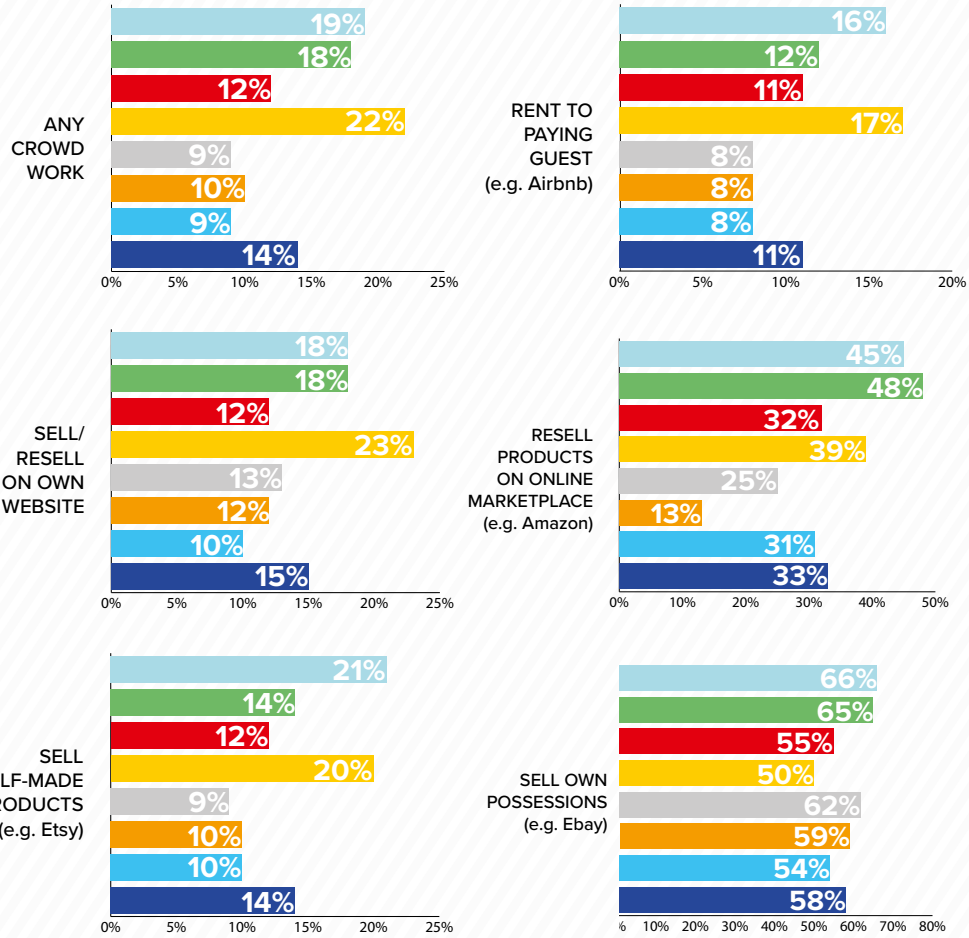
RESEARCH RESULTS FROM THE UK, SWEDEN, GERMANY, AUSTRIA, THE NETHERLANDS, SWITZERLAND AND ITALY

Authors: Ursula Huws, Neil H. Spencer, Dag S. Syrdal, Kaire Holts

Discover infographics and download the full report on www.feps-europe.eu

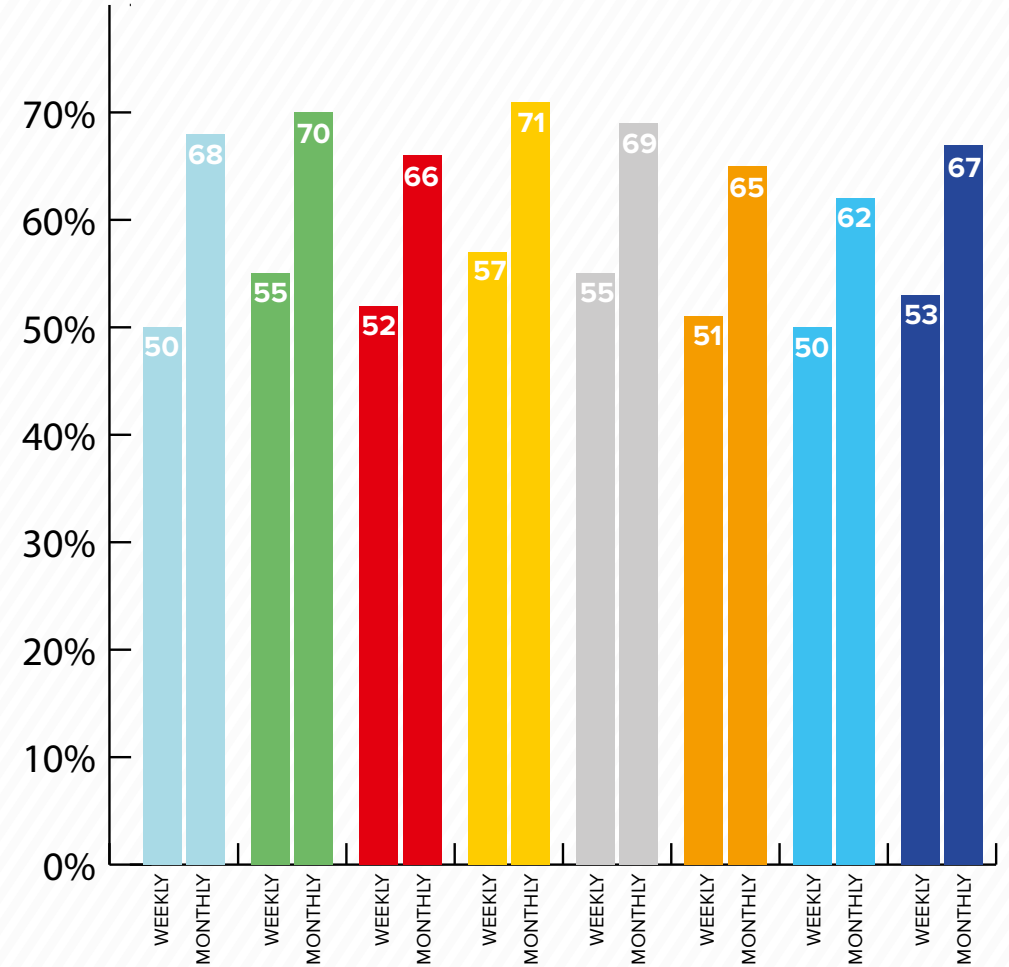


THE MOST PREVALENT ONLINE INCOME-GENERATING ACTIVITY IS SELLING GOODS



Participation in the online economy as a source of income, by country

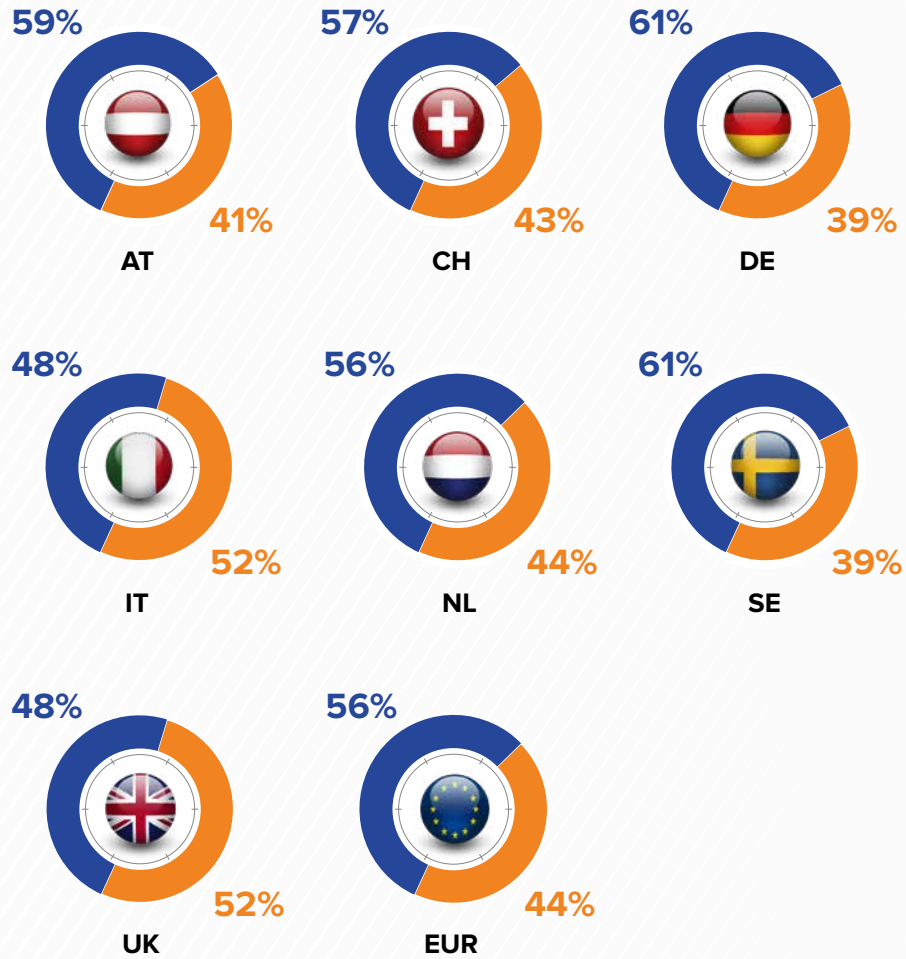
MORE THAN HALF OF CROWD WORKERS DO IT REGULARLY



Frequency of crowd work amongst crowd workers, by country



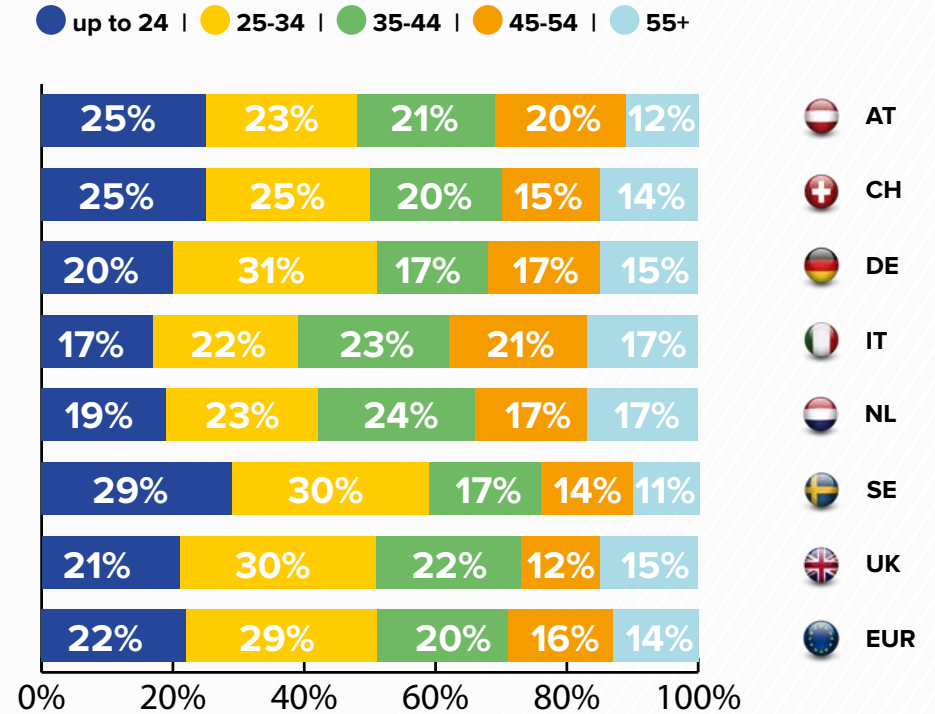
WHO ARE THE CROWD WORKERS?



Any crowd work, by gender (%)



CROWD WORKING IS NOT ONLY FOR MILLENNIALS

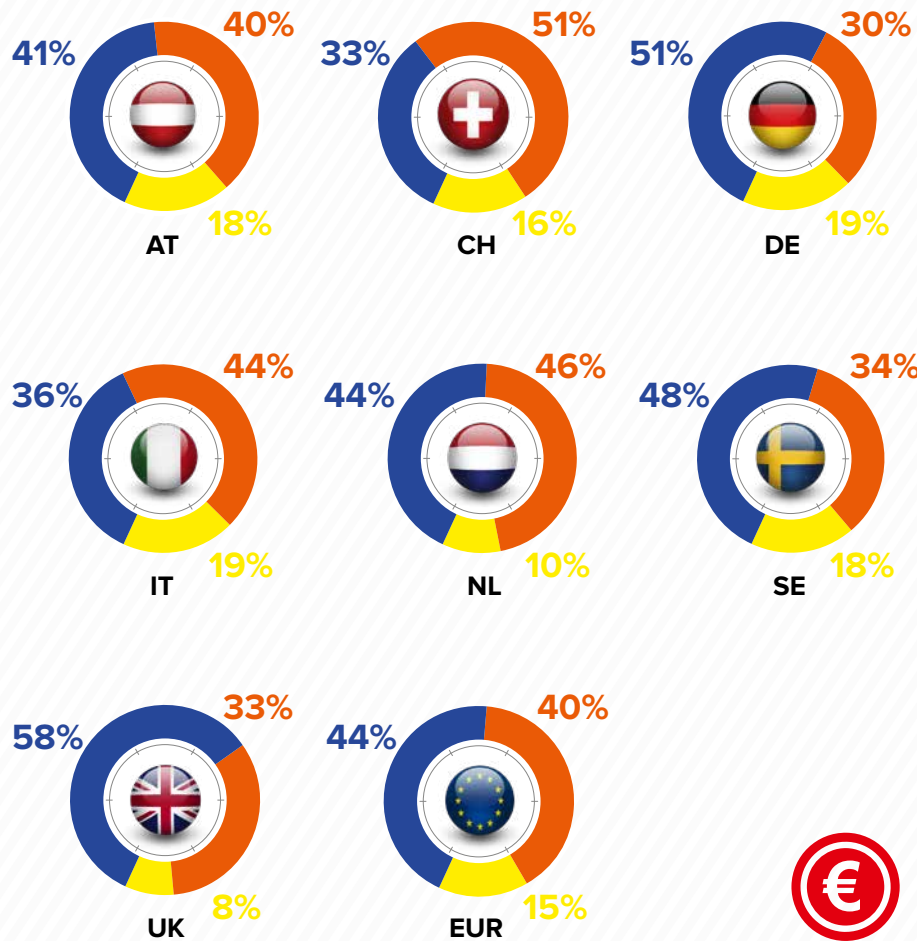


Age of crowd workers, by country (%)





CROWD WORK IS GENERALLY A COMPLEMENT TO OTHER INCOMES BUT FOR SOME IS THE MAIN INCOME SOURCE

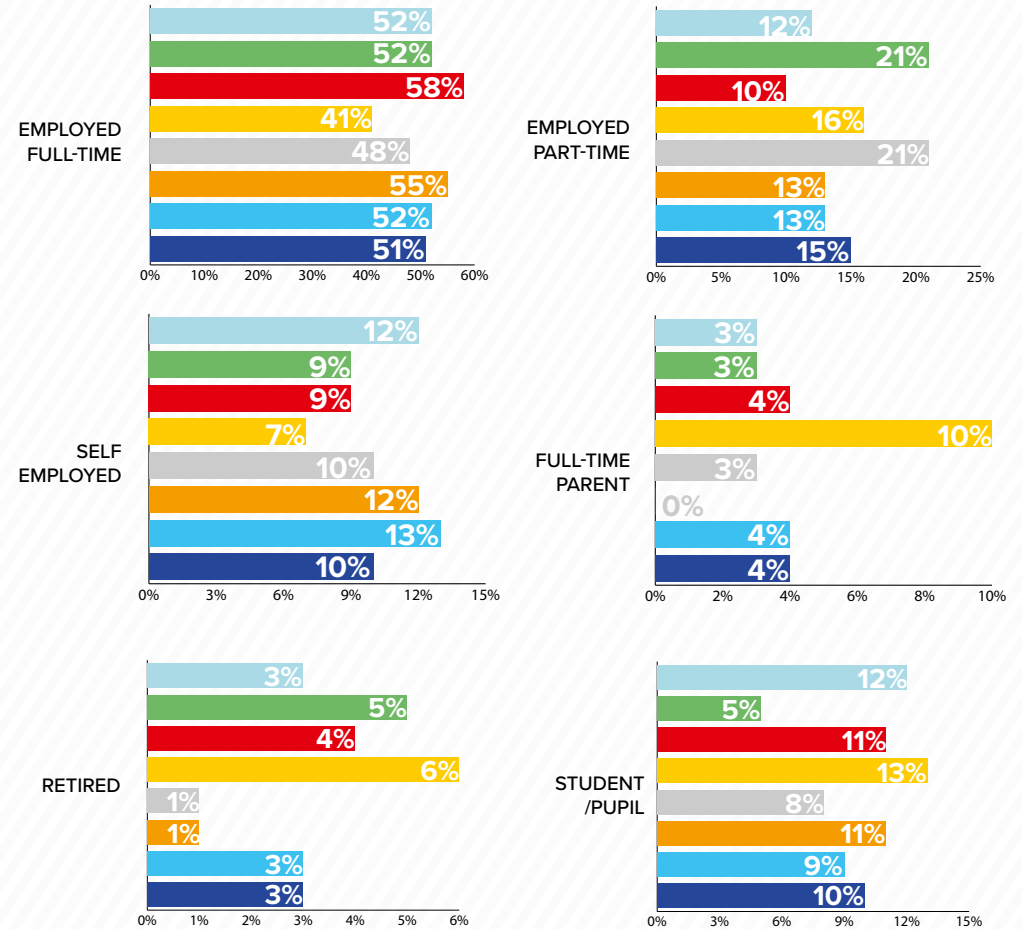


● up to 10 | ● 10 to 75% | ● 75% to all

Earnings from crowd work as a proportion of all personal income up to 10% | 10% to 75% | 75% to all



PEOPLE WHO ALREADY HAVE A FULL TIME JOB ALSO PARTICIPATE IN CROWD WORK



● AT ● CH ● DE ● IT ● NL ● SE ● UK ● EUR

Employment status of crowd workers, by country (%)



THE DEFINITION OF CROWD WORKING INCLUDES ANY RESPONDENTS WHO SAID THAT THEY HAD EVER SOLD THEIR LABOUR VIA AN ONLINE PLATFORM IN ANY OF THE FOLLOWING THREE CATEGORIES:

- 1. Carrying out work from your own home for a website such as Upwork, Freelancer, Timeetc, Clickworker or PeoplePerHour2.**
- 2. Carrying out work for different customers somewhere outside your home on a website such as Handy, Taskrabbit or Mybuilder.**
- 3. Carrying out work involving driving someone to a location for a fee using an app or website such as Uber or Blablacar.**

The EUR figures is the average from the seven countries surveys



This joint research project was launched in January 2016, by the **Foundation for European Progressive Studies (FEPS)**, **UNI Europa** and carried out by the **University of Hertfordshire**.

With the financial support of the European Parliament. Co-funding for national surveys was provided by the Trade Union Unionen in Sweden, the TNO Research Institute in the Netherlands, The Chamber of Labour (AK) in Austria, the Trade Unions Ver.di and IG Metall in Germany, the Trade Union Syndicom in Switzerland and the Fondazione EYU in Italy. Fieldwork for the surveys in these seven countries was carried out by Ipsos MORI between January 2016 and April 2017. The report also draws on 15 in-depth qualitative interviews with crowd workers, which form part of an ongoing project. In 2018n the project will be expanded to other European countries, such as Estonia, France, Greece, etc...

Published by

**FEPS – FOUNDATION FOR EUROPEAN
PROGRESSIVE STUDIES**

Rue Montoyer, 40 - 1000 Brussels, Belgium
www.feps-europe.eu - info@feps-europe.eu

UNI EUROPA

Rue Joseph II, 40 - 1000 Brussels
uni-europa@uniglobalunion

**HERTFORDSHIRE BUSINESS SCHOOL,
UNIVERSITY OF HERTFORDSHIRE**

College Lane, Hatfield, AL10 9AB, UK

© FEPS, UNI Europa, University of Hertfordshire
With the financial support of the European Parliament



Responsibility for the information and views expressed in the book lies entirely with the authors.