DIFIS German Institute for Interdisciplinary Social Policy Research

connecting research, politics and society

Friday, 20 March 2026 | 9:15–16:00 | Duisburg

Regulating Work in the Platform Economy: Paths, Strategies, and Challenges

Workshop by the Issue Network "Platforms – Work – Regulation" of the German Institute for Interdisciplinary Social Policy Research (DIFIS)

Dear Colleagues,

we are pleased to invite you to our workshop "Regulating Work in the Platform Economy: Paths, Strategies, and Challenges".

Platform work is a growing phenomenon in European labour markets and poses huge challenges for existing labour market institutions and labour regulation. Spatial fragmentation and the loss of physical workplaces, new forms of work organization and work control including ratings, rankings, and algorithmic management, hybrid work and employment forms as well as the widespread use of independent contracting have kept platform work outside the scope of traditional modes of labour regulation – be it with respect to labour law, national legislation, or social dialogue. While a cat-and-mouse-game between legislators and the powerful platform companies has been constitutive for the (de-)institutionalization of work in the platform economy from the very beginning, there have been increasing attempts of platform work regulation by national and supranational legislators and unions in recent years. In this regard, the EU Platform Work Directive (PWD) is considered a landmark of platform work regulation, aiming at enlarging labour rights both for employed and self-employed workers performing platform work. However, its transposition remains contested and contingent, posing challenges for national legislators in ensuring both a sustainable transfer into national law and effective enforcement mechanisms.

Against this background, the workshop "Regulating Work in the Platform Economy: Paths, Strategies, and Challenges" by the Issue Network "Platforms – Work – Regulation" of the German Institute for Interdisciplinary Social Policy Research (DIFIS) brings together academic experts in research on platform work and platform work regulation in order to discuss recent research findings and insights from a variety of European contexts of work in the platform economy. The contributions cover a wide range of topics, including vulnerable groups of platform workers and precarious platform work segments, national regulatory attempts by legislators, unions' strategies in regulating platform work, as well as challenges in adjusting social security schemes to the needs of workers in the platform economy. In the workshop, participants are welcome to discuss the current state of art in platform work research as well as academic and policy challenges of future platform work regulation.

We kindly ask you to register in advance and look forward to welcoming you in Duisburg!

Fabian Beckmann | University of Duisburg-Essen

Fabian Hoose | Ruhr University Bochum

We kindly ask you to register by March 12 2026 at this **link**.

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Workshop Programme (I)	
09:15-09:45	**Registration and Coffee**
09:45-10:00	**Welcome and Introduction** Fabian Beckmann | University of Duisburg-Essen Fabian Hoose | Ruhr University Bochum
10:00-10:45	**Challenges for inclusion of platform companies in social dialogue and related policy making at EU level** Agnieszka Piasna | European Trade Union Institute, Brussels
10:45-11:30	**The German Co-Determination Exception? Worker struggles in the platform-mediated courier sector in a comparative perspective** Denis Neumann | University of Leeds
11:30-11:45	**Coffee break**
11:45-12:30	**Care and domestic platforms in mature market contexts: between regulatory compliance and disruption** Claudia Marà | KU Leuven
12:30-13:15	**Lunch break**

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Workshop Programme (II)

13:15-14:00	**Regulation under Conditions of Inequality: Gender-specific Motives and Patterns of Interpretation in Platform Work** Sabrina Glanz | Ruhr University Bochum Lara Obereiner | Ruhr University Bochum
14:00-14:45	**Mapping the Norwegian platform economy: development, characteristics and heterogeneity** Johanne Stenseth Huseby | Fafo, Oslo
14:45-15:00	**Coffee break**
15:00-15:45	**Adapting social security to the needs of platform workers - comparing the effects of EU initiatives in the Netherlands and Germany** Karin Schulze Buschoff | Hans Böckler Foundation, Düsseldorf Carla Brega Baytelman | University of Amsterdam
15:45-16:00	**Closing remarks** Fabian Beckmann | University of Duisburg-Essen Fabian Hoose | Ruhr University Bochum

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Venue

The event will take place at the University of Duisburg-Essen.

The address of the venue is
Gerhard-Mercator-Haus, Lotharstraße 57, 47057 Duisburg

From Duisburg Central Station you can get to the venue by taking the following busses/trams:

- Bus 933 towards Duisburg Uni Nord to the stop "Universität"
- Bus 926 towards Duisburg Sportpark to the stop "Universität"
- Bus 920 towards Duisburg Uni Nord to the stop "Universität"
- Tram 901 towards Mülheim Hbf to the stop "Schweizer Straße"

There is also ample free parking available at the venue in the parking garage of the University of Duisburg-Essen (access via Forsthausweg).

Organizer

German Institute for Interdisciplinary Social Policy Research (DIFIS) represented by the Intitute for Work, Skills and Training (IAQ) at the University of Duisburg-Essen and the SOICUM Research Center on Inequality and Social Policy at the University of Bremen.

Contact information

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Registration link

https://eveeno.com/platform-work
Please register by March 12 2026.

Further remarks

There are no fees for participants. Vegan/vegetarian meals free of charge will be provided for participants during coffee and lunch breaks.

Photos

During the event, photos may be taken, which may be used for public relations purposes and to document the event. These recordings may be published both on the Internet and on social media.

Detailed information on data protection at DIFIS can be found **here**.

Your consent to our privacy policy is considered the basis for your participation in the event. If you have any objections, please contact the persons listed in the document or the event team.

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