

Online Platforms and Platform Work Romania

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

Emergency Ordinance no. 49/2019 on alternative transport activities with car and driver was adopted by the Romanian government in 2020. The legislation is intended to regulate the national and international sector of ridesharing platforms and platforms relating to alternative transport activities. **This law was adopted to prevent tax evasion by ridesharing-related activities.** Income of online platforms registered in Romania is taxed under the Romanian Fiscal Code 227/2015.



55.8% of platform workers in Romania only **work around 10 hours per week.**



Romania has one of **the lowest number of workers employed via online platforms in the EU.** The percentage of foreign-born platform workers in Romania is also very low compared to other European countries.



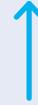
Transport services and food delivery are the most popular platform sectors in Romania and they are growing. The market is dominated by international platforms.

Glovo Romania has 5,000 active couriers in 33 cities, followed by **Uber Romania** with 4,088 drivers in 13 cities.

Five food delivery platforms - Hipmenu, Caserola.ro, Tazz, Bee fast, ChopChop - and one transport platform – Star Taxi - operate only in Romania.



Internet connectivity is the key challenge to the expansion of the digital platform labour economy. **Compared to other EU countries, the percentage of the population using the Internet is significantly smaller in Romania.** Most Internet users – and therefore platform workers – are concentrated in cities rather than rural areas.



As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, work via online platforms has expanded in Romania. Even if platform work is associated with low income and a lack of a stable career over time, for many workers, online platforms have become a new source of income.



In the public sphere, the platform economy is being discussed as a new phenomenon. The media discourse has largely focused on promoting a positive image of the platform economy. In many cases, platform work in Romania is overestimated in terms of how much it fosters flexibility and autonomy compared to standard employment. **The discourse largely tends to neglect crucial topics relating to social protection, collective bargaining or working conditions of platform workers.**



There is no collective agreement relating to platform work in Romania.

In **2020**, a group of couriers from Glovo organised a spontaneous action against the CEO of Glovo Romania, demanding inter alia transparency of information concerning the digital application and how the score of excellence functions, fair payment according to weather algorithms, waiting time and flexibility in choosing working hours as well as fair access to information from the assistance provided by Glovo Romania.