



RESEARCH INSTITUTE FOR WORK AND SOCIETY



Union servicing for platform workers in Belgium

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Platform work in Belgium

- Rise in new non-standard forms of work (platform work) and selfemployment (as a secondary profession) (freelancers) in Belgium
 - Very limited data are available about platform work (size, workers' profiles)
- Such workers are considered 'employers' under social dialogue logic and traditionally represented by employers' organisations
- Unions have taken a leading role in the debate on platform work, aiming to defend the working conditions of all workers
- Belgium is one of the EU MS with the highest levels of union density and collective bargaining coverage
- 3 'representative' trade union confederations, of which 2 have 1.5 million members each (membership stable/growing, but renewal is still a priority)
- Servicing is the main approach used to attract and retain members, much less experience with organising





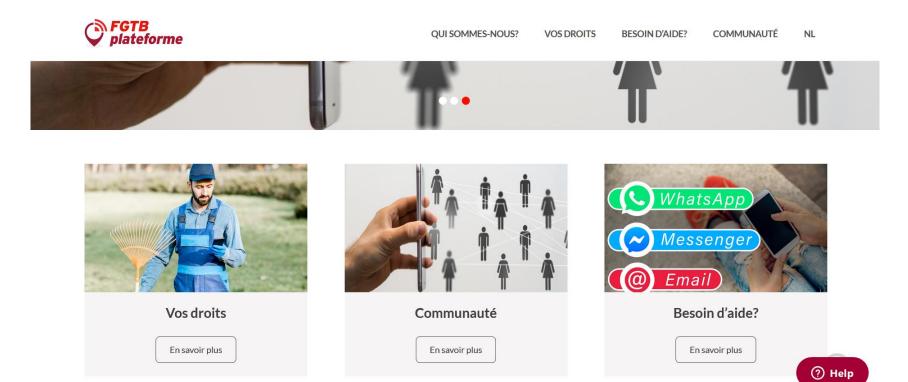
Policy and actions

- Legislative framework on 'sharing economy'
 - Favourable regime for work through licensed platforms
 - No attention for working and employment conditions
- Highly anticipated court case and decisions by the Administrative Commission for the Regulation of Labour Relations on status
- Grassroots organisations by platform workers (CouriersCollective)
- Trade unions as a point of contact for workers faced with issues:
 - Servicing → same / similar services as provided to other workers
 - Organising → using social media (Facebook, WhatsApp)
 - All initiatives are still in the early stages



ABVV-FGTB platform for platform workers

https://www.abvvplatform.be/



- Launched by ABVV-FGTB in February 2020
- Promoted by several sectoral trade unions, which collaborate, point of entry
- 10-15 people directly involved, many more indirectly





ABVV-FGTB platform for platform workers What services are provided?

Website serves as a platform:

- For platform workers in all sectors ('same rights')
- Information about rights as a worker:
 - Legal framework, social security, taxation, ...
- Community page to interact with other platform workers
- Dispatch to sectoral trade union that is best able to help
- Same service package is offered, but also dedicated services

Why dual approach of servicing and organising:

- Getting to know potential target groups
- Getting experience with issues that are new for unions
- Positive media attention



