
Regulating platform work: a contribution to assessing the convergence of public policies in Africa

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Abstract

Our study looks at the regulation of work on platforms and the contribution of this regulation by focusing on public policies in pioneer countries in Africa. The central objective is to analyse how different actors in the public policy sphere interact to regulate activities on digital platforms and what is the level of convergence of these interventions at the cognitive, political and processual levels.

The methodology adopted is based mainly on case studies of African countries that have pioneered the regulation of work on platforms, notably South Africa, Morocco, Kenya and Nigeria. The comparative analysis mainly aims to identify convergences and divergences between local, national and regional frameworks in terms of legal frameworks, social protection, algorithmic transparency, platform liability, and enforcement mechanisms. In addition, a strategic dimension will assess the incentives and constraints of stakeholders (governments, platforms, workers, employers, trade unions) and propose policy scenarios and regional co-operation mechanisms to identify entry points for effective and sustainable convergence of public policies.

As a result, our investigation is likely to contribute to enriching the analytical framework of public policy convergence in the promotion of digital work. Summary tables by country (South Africa, Morocco, Kenya, Nigeria) highlight progress and challenges and propose policy recommendations on minimum standards and models for public-private partnerships that safeguard innovation while strengthening workers' rights.

Our findings suggest that African countries, despite efforts to formalise work on platforms, lack strategies combining convergent policies in this area. The informality and fragility of workers' status, the fragmentation and heterogeneity of intervention frameworks, the high compliance costs for small platforms and limited institutional capacity all undermine progress.

Keywords: Public Policy, Digital labour, platforms, convergence

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