



Crowdsourcing and contests: is technological change creating new labour markets?

CEPS, Place du Congrès 1, 1000 Brussels
Conference Room
November 23, 2015

Programme

09:00 – 09:30	Registration
09:30 – 10:00	Welcome and Introduction <i>Ilaria Maselli</i> , CEPS <i>Monique Ramioul</i> , University of Leuven
10:00 – 11:30	SESSION I. Are we all going to end up self-employed? <i>Jan Drabokoupil</i> , European Trade Union Institute (ETUI) <i>William Rodgers</i> , Heldrich Center for Workforce Development, Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey Moderated by <i>Miroslav Beblavý</i> , CEPS
11:30 – 12:00	Coffee break
12:00 – 13:00	SESSION II. Crowdsourcing and contests: A new digital working class <i>Ursula Huws</i> , University of Hertfordshire Business School <i>Irene Mandl</i> , Eurofound <i>Ilaria Maselli</i> , CEPS Moderated by <i>Miroslav Beblavý</i> , CEPS

SESSION I. Are we all going to end up self-employed?

Self-employment makes a considerable contribution to the EU's economy in terms of entrepreneurship and job creation, and it accounted for almost 15% of total employment in the Union. But it also carries a degree of risk and vulnerability for the individual, both in the short and long run. Countries like Italy, Greece and Spain have the highest rates of self-employment in Europe.

Is there evidence of an increase of such labour market arrangements in recent years? Are careers becoming shorter? Are they driven by technology or by institutional factors? Is one job over a lifetime really over? In this session, speakers will shed light on the drivers behind the recent growth in self-employment and the policy consequences that need to be addressed as a result.

SESSION II. Crowdsourcing and contests: A new digital working class

Crowdsourcing is a quick and cheap option for outsourcing, but it is more than that. The definition of crowdsourcing can be wide and includes phenomena such as Wikipedia, where the construction of the encyclopaedia is in the hands of the crowd. Here we restrict the focus to the crowdsourcing of paid labour, which allows for specific tasks to be assigned, from the creation of a web programme code to translation or data collection to a worker in an unspecified location. In this session we would like to understand the labour implications of these phenomena, both for workers in this new sector and for the users of traditional markets.