ELEARNINGNEWS ARTICLE

Year 2 - number 7 Wednesday 10 january 2018

The regulation about the impact on health and safety at work of the economy of online platforms

Research presented by the European Risk Observatory regarding the professional risks of workers operating on online platforms, and therefore also on e-Learning platforms.

Behind every e-Learning platform there is always a man (or a woman) who spends his working day behind a computer monitor. It is a recent and innovative activity, with a strong technological content and, precisely for this reason, subject to the new sources of digital stress that are summarized by the term "**tecnostress**".

In order to investigate the professional risk to which "technological" workers are exposed, in particularl those working on online platforms, in November 2017 the European Risk Observatory of the **European Agency for Safety and Health at Work** presented a substantial research in Tallin conducted by the Professor Sacha Garben on "**The regulation of the impact on health and safety at work of the online platforms economy**".

This 60-page report (available in English and presented in Italy by Tecnostress.it specialized website) describes potential occupational health and safety risks (SSL) that have been identified in connection with work on online platforms to highlight the challenges current regulatory approaches to Health and Safety at Work and to present the most significant examples currently being held in some European countries.

The report, which does not claim to give a verdict on whether online work is "good" or "bad" - mentions, in addition to potential risks, also the potential benefits of online work, and how to reduce the scope of undeclared work.

The research summary is as follows:

1- Definitions:

- Economics of online platforms and related concepts
- The digitalization of society and the digital economy
- Online platforms and the economy of online platforms
- Collaborative and sharing economy
- The gig economy, the on-demand economy, work with online platforms and various forms of atypical work

2 ? The regulation of online platform work

- Factors that complicate the regulation of the economy of online platforms
- The regulatory and political challenges of working on online platforms
- Regulatory options and policies related to work on online platforms

3 - OSH implications

- Direct effects on SSL of the online platform
- The indirect effects on SSL of the online platform work due to an uncertain applicability of employment rules
    - France
    - UK
    - Denmark
    - Sweden
    - Finland
    - Netherlands
    - Belgium

    - ♦ Ireland
    - ♦ Specific developments in other EU Member States
- The European Commission
- The European Parliament
- The Court of Justice of the EU

4 Concluding remarks

Download the full report " Protecting Workers in the Online Platform Economy: An overview of regulatory and policy developments in the EU", pdf 1.05Mb - European Risk Observatory Discussion Paper.