# Trying to think about criteria for fair work on digital labor platforms

Six Silberman
Crowdsourcing Project
IG Metall (German Metalworkers' Union)
Frankfurt, Germany

Ellie Harmon
Department of Computer Science
Portland State University
Portland, OR, USA

DIODE Network Meeting 9 October 2017, Oxford

"is"

# "should"

Workers should not be misclassified as self-employed if they are employees in practice.

Strict rules should govern nonpayment.

Task pay terms should be clear.

Platforms should review task instructions before publication.

If nonpayment is permitted,

rates of payment or nonpayment should not be used to measure worker quality.

If nonpayment is permitted,

customer nonpayment rates should be made visible to workers choosing tasks.

regardless of employment status.

regardless of employment status.

regardless of employment status.

Additional desirable pay benchmarks:

- local living wage

regardless of employment status.

- local living wage
- median local wage earned by workers performing similar work

regardless of employment status.

- local living wage
- median local wage earned by workers performing similar work
  - as freelancers

regardless of employment status.

- local living wage
- median local wage earned by workers performing similar work
  - as freelancers
  - as employees

regardless of employment status.

- local living wage
- median local wage earned by workers performing similar work
  - as freelancers
  - as employees
  - as employees with collective agreements

In the event of technical problems with task or platform, workers should not pay the cost for lost time or work.

Workers should be able to contest nonpayment, work evaluations, and qualification test outcomes.

Customers and platform operators should respond to worker communications

Customers and platform operators should respond to worker communications

promptly, politely, and substantively.

Workers should know who their customers are

Workers should know who their customers are and the purpose of their work.

(e.g., review of social media content for hate speech, violence, or pornography)

(e.g., review of social media content for hate speech, violence, or pornography)

should be clearly marked.

(e.g., review of social media content for hate speech, violence, or pornography)

should be clearly marked.

Workers completing such tasks should have access to counseling or support

(e.g., review of social media content for hate speech, violence, or pornography)

should be clearly marked.

Workers completing such tasks should have access to counseling or support

paid for by the customer and/or platform.

such as union membership and collective bargaining.

such as union membership and collective bargaining.

The fact that current competition law may in some jurisdictions prohibit self-employed platform workers from organizing and negotiating collective agreements with platform operators

such as union membership and collective bargaining.

The fact that current competition law may in some jurisdictions prohibit self-employed platform workers from organizing and negotiating collective agreements with platform operators

is not an argument that platform workers should not be allowed to organize

such as union membership and collective bargaining.

The fact that current competition law may in some jurisdictions prohibit self-employed platform workers from organizing and negotiating collective agreements with platform operators

is not an argument that platform workers should not be allowed to organize

but an argument for revising competition law.

Worker account deactivations should be reviewed by a human platform employee.

Worker account deactivations should be reviewed by a human platform employee.

Workers should be given reasons for deactivation and have a right to contest it.

Workers should be able to view and export a work and reputation history.

Platform terms should be presented in a clear and concise human readable format.

Workers should not be penalized for declining to accept some offered tasks

Workers should not be penalized for declining to accept some offered tasks

or declining to work at certain times.

## Coda

Coda (I)

Job content

#### Coda (II)

"Fair Work Foundation"

- Toward a "fair trade"-like label for digital platforms
- http://fair.work

#### Coda (II)

- "Fair Work Foundation"
- Toward a "fair trade"-like label for digital platforms
- http://fair.work
- "Crowdsourcing Code of Conduct"
- Initiated in 2015 by German platforms
- New version developed late 2016 with union input
- "Enforcement mechanism" coming soon
- http://crowdsourcing-code.com

### Coda (II)

- "Fair Work Foundation"
- Toward a "fair trade"-like label for digital platforms
- http://fair.work
- "Crowdsourcing Code of Conduct"
- Initiated in 2015 by German platforms
- New version developed late 2016 with union input
- "Enforcement mechanism" coming soon
- http://crowdsourcing-code.com
- "Fair Crowd Work"
- Union website evaluating platform working conditions
- http://faircrowdwork.org