

Ulrich Becker | Olga Chesalina (eds.)

Social Law 4.0: Update

Innovative Approaches to Ensuring and Financing
Social Protection for Platform Workers in Europe



Nomos

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für Sozialrecht und Sozialpolitik

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Preface

The present study is an update of our book “Social Law 4.0: New Approaches for Ensuring and Financing Social Security in the Digital Age”, published in 2021 by Nomos, and the continuation of a research project which was initiated in February 2019 by the Max-Planck-Institute for Social Law and Social Policy.

To publish an “update” of a collective volume that is not a handbook but the result of joint research efforts is rather unusual. We thought it necessary though. Social law responses to changes in industrial relations still matter. In this context, the insights from our publications of 2021 continue to lay a reliable fundament for further research. They were based on examples for innovative approaches in different countries and developments in an international perspective. The overall goal of the update is to provide insights on changes and new developments since autumn 2020 concerning the access to and the financing of social protection with a special focus on platform work at national and European levels.

We also took the opportunity to add a concluding chapter. It provides a legal comparison of innovations, developments and approaches that form part of the country reports as well as proposals for future regulations.

How to publish such an update? A second edition of “Social Law 4.0” would not have been appropriate in order to mirror the dynamic of the legal developments. Therefore, we decided to ask the authors for updates of their previous book chapters. The reader may have to have a copy of the 2021 volume available, but this is published open access, and the publication of updates allows for concentration on essential aspects and for putting emphasis on changes over time.

We would like to thank the authors who had been prepared to share this update-adventure for the smooth cooperation and their valuable input. And we are also grateful to Eduard Schwarzenberger from Nomos for the support as well as to Marion Bywater and Christina McAllister for the proof reading.

Munich, March 2025

Ulrich Becker
Olga Chesalina

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