

DPE participation in (some of) the Nordics

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Introduction

- DPE data collection carried out in three Nordic countries, Denmark, Finland and Norway
- A total of 45,000 interviews

Table 1 – Main country collection data and results

	Finland	Denmark	Norway
Collection mode	CATI+CAWI	CATI+CAWI	CATI
Collection wave(s)	2nd ,3rd and 4th (of 5 waves)	2nd (of 4 waves)	2nd and 6th (of 8 waves)
Number of respondents	18,800	11,500	14,200
Item non-response	0.3 %	0.8 %	0.2 %
App use for pay or profit last 12 months	4.6%	5.4 %	5.7 %
App use last month	1.2 %	0.6 %	1.5 %
App is more than half of the income	0.3 %	0.1 %	0.1 %
App is the main job	0.2 %	0.1 %	0.3 %
Most common app activity	Selling of goods	Selling of goods	Letting of real estate

DPE activities

	Finland	Denmark	Norway
DPE01A – Taxi services	0.6% (0.3%)	0.7%	0.1%
DPE01B – Transport services	0.7%	1.3%	0.3%
DPE01C – Renting out accommodation	0.5%	0.6%	1.2%
DPE01D – Good selling	1.1%	1.5%	0.5%
DPE01E – Cleaning and handiwork	0.3%	0.1%	0.5%
DPE01F – Child and elderly care	0.2%	0.1%	0.2%
DPE01G – Medical and health care services	0.2%	0.2%	0.3%
DPE01H – Tutoring and teaching services	0.2% (0.1%)	0.2%	0.2%
DPE01I – Translation services	0.2% (0.1%)	0.1%	0.2%
DPE01J – IT services	0.2%	0.1%	0.4%
DPE01K – Online support or checks for online content	0.1%	0.1%	0.4%
DPE01L – Content creation	0.8%	0.5%	0.6%
DPE01M – Other platform work or services	0.7 % (0.2%)	1.0%	0.9%

Country results - Finland

	Share of population
DPE-work in last month	1.2% (40,000 persons)
Main source of income	0.3%
Reported as main job	0.2%

Most prominent among

Foreign origin, males, younger persons, self-employed, labour market participants

Most common activities

Selling of goods (1.1%), Creating content (0.8%), Other platform work or services and Transportation services (0.7%)

Country results - Finland

- False positives lead to overestimation of the above rates, requiring a thorough manual data clean up
 - Persons reporting working tools as DPE (e.g. Zoom or Teams)
 - Persons answering in the wrong categories early in the questionnaire and answering 'other' for categories belonging in other categories
- In 2017, 8% responded as having worked on any of a list of platforms in the past 12 months. This points to a general question leading to more false positives than the specific questions in the 2022-module
- Data cleaning removed around 12-13% of DPE-workers, most in DPE01A+M

Country results - Denmark

	Share of population
DPE-work in last month	0.6% (23,000 persons)
Main source of income	0.1%
Reported as main job	0.2%

Most prominent among

males, younger persons, self-employed, labour market participants

Most common activities

selling of goods (1.5%), transportation services (1.3%), 'other' (1.0%)

Country results - Denmark

- 0.3% worked less than one hour last month, 0.4% worked 1-9 hours, 0.3% worked more than 9 hours
- A lot of uncommon types (below 0.2%): cleaning and handiwork, child and elderly care, medical and health care services, tutoring and teaching services, translation services, IT-services and online support or checks for online content
- False positives:
 - A lot of wrong types in the first question and ‘other’ question
 - Ticketing apps reported as transportation DPE apps
 - Customers of apps reporting it as work (hard to identify correctly)

Country results - Norway

	Share of population
DPE-work in last month	1.5% (44,000 persons)
Main source of income	0.1%
Reported as main job	0.3%

Most prominent among

Men, bachelor degree, younger, in employment, self-employed

Most common activities

Letting of accommodation (1.2%), Content creation for online publishing (0.6 %), Commercial sale of goods (0.5 %)

Country results - Norway

- High turnover: 5.7 % have done DPE in the last 12 months; 1.5% in the last four weeks
- Easy to understand:
 - transport of goods, letting of real estate, selling of goods, cleaning and handiwork, online support, and content creation
- Difficult to understand:
 - transport of persons, child care, medical services, tutoring, translation, IT
- False positives:
 - In 'other' category. Some respondents understood category as being 'other work in addition to DPE'
 - Non-DPE applications: 'Google Translate', 'Teams' and 'Python'

Challenges

- Differences in 4w/12m participation rates, low share of persons having many hours and high income from DPE-work point to low persistency and high occationality
- The use of apps for work planning in traditional work is making it more difficult to distinguish between DPE and non-DPE work (e.g. Taxi services, home care)
- High rate of false positives combined with low rate of participation leads to problems when analysing splits among DPE-workers
 - Only thing we can say for certain is that participation is low
- Three different ways of setting up and carrying out the survey led to the same result
 - Points to common issues, at least in the Nordic labour markets

Future work

- The topic is difficult to explain to respondents, as evidenced by the high number of false positives. Need for creativity in making questions clear and distinguish DPE app work from normal work and IT tools
 - Need to focus on persons with substantial hours, compared to occasional use
 - Good way to collect information would be to start with general question and ask follow-up questions meant to root out false positives
- Many categories lead to confusion and carry a large respondent burden. At the same time, too general a question can lead to even higher number of false positives
- Digital platform employment remains murky, both in a methodological and practical context, which calls for further work defining and conveying the concept to statisticians and respondents alike