



International Network for Knowledge and Comparative Socioeconomic Analysis of Informality

and the policies to be implemented for its formalization in the European Union and Latin America

Horizon Europe Project 101182756 — INSEAI 2023

INSEAI 2023 – TEACHING HIBRID INFORMALITY

The rapid diffusion of digital technologies is reshaping economic activities worldwide and generating profound implications for the informal economy. While earlier debates on informality focused on structural transformation, labour-market segmentation, and institutional weaknesses, recent technological developments have introduced new forms of work, entrepreneurship, and governance that challenge traditional distinctions between formal and informal economic activities. This article reviews the emerging literature on the relationship between digitalization and informality, with particular attention to digital labour platforms, fintech, artificial intelligence, e-government systems, and digital identification technologies. Drawing on scholarship from development economics, labour economics, economic sociology, and public policy, the review synthesizes evidence on three interconnected dimensions: the transformation of informal economic activities, the measurement of informality in the digital age, and the governance mechanisms developed to regulate digitally mediated economic activities. The article argues that digitalization is not simply reducing or reproducing informality. Rather, it is generating a new regime of **hybrid informality** characterized by increased digital visibility, partial integration into formal institutions, and persistent exclusion from labour protections and social protection systems. This concept provides a more accurate framework for understanding contemporary forms of platform work, online entrepreneurship, and digitally mediated self-employment. The review concludes by identifying major research gaps and proposing an integrated research agenda for the study of informality in the digital economy.



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September 1st, Tuesday, 2026,
Local time :10 am; 18:00 (CEST)

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