Institut für Arbeitsmarktund Berufsforschung Die Forschungseinrichtung der Bundesagentur für Arbeit



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What you do at work and how: a framework for measuring tasks across occupations

Enrique Fernández-Macías, PhD

European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions

This paper's aim is to contribute to the development of a comprehensive, transparent and general-purpose set of task indices to be used for analysing the occupational structure, drawing on different international databases (most importantly, PIAAC, the European Working Conditions Survey and ONET). First, we provide some background to the tasks approach, discussing the main concepts and what we believe are critical omissions. Second, we briefly review the most important strands of the literature on the determinants of structural change in labour demand, trying to gather

the implications of such literature for a conceptualization and analysis of tasks. Third, we present our own framework, based on our critical evaluation of existing proposals and related literature. Finally, we briefly introduce an application of our model with real data for European countries, and conclude with some reflections on how to measure and analyse tasks in the economy.

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Institut für Arbeitsmarkt- und Berufsforschung der Bundesagentur für Arbeit Weddigenstraße 20-22 = 90478 Nürnberg = www.iab.de