Platform work (or crowdwork) follows an exponential trend, even if still from comparatively low levels in most countries. Platforms can increase market transparency, lower transactions costs and offer new efficient and flexible opportunities for firms – and may also accommodate the wishes of individuals regarding independent and self-determined activities. However, from the national policy perspective, platform work has an informal character. Many see cause for concern, amongst others since the basic risks of life such as sickness, accident, unemployment, old age and nursing care dependency are often not covered by the gainful activity.

Consequently, it comes as a challenge to refine social security for a more flexibly working labour force. In this regard, the talk introduces the idea of Digital Social Security. The proposal demonstrates how social security could be extended to platform work despite its flexible and international character. Thereby, major obstacles are addressed. The discussion should highlight potential caveats and revisions of the proposal.