

Technical Workshop

Measuring collective bargaining coverage in OECD countries

25 October 2023 – 14:00-15:15

Collective bargaining coverage represents the share of workers covered by valid collective agreements in force. Whereas union density can be seen as a measure of potential union bargaining pressure, collective bargaining coverage is closer to measuring the degree to which unions are capable of providing common standards of wages, working hours and working conditions in labour markets.

Beyond its intrinsic value for general international comparisons and academic research, collective bargaining coverage has become a key variable for policy making. The EU Directive on Adequate Minimum Wages has established a threshold of 80% of coverage, below which EU member states are obliged to “*establish an action plan to promote collective bargaining to progressively increase the collective bargaining coverage rate*”. Beyond Europe, bargaining coverage is also closely observed as countries have passed or are discussing reforms to (re)introduce some forms of sectoral bargaining.

Reliable and internationally comparable measures of bargaining coverage are therefore key. But, if the concept is relatively simple, the actual measurement is fraught by complexities. For instance, particular measurement problems may arise from multi-annual collective agreements or multi-level bargaining that may lead to double counting. Moreover, not all countries provide timely data.

Over the years the OECD/AIAS ICTWSS database has become the international reference on statistics on collective bargaining, including bargaining coverage, across the OECD and beyond. This workshop will propose a deep dive into the [recent work undertaken at the OECD to better document and improve the methodology for the measurement of bargaining coverage in the OECD/AIAS ICTWSS database](#). The workshop is addressed to government officials, social partners, academic experts and practitioners.

AGENDA

	Introductory remarks
14:00 – 14:05	Sandrine Cazes , OECD Jelle Visser , AIAS
14:05 – 14:25	The measurement of collective bargaining coverage Andrea Garnero & Sebastien Martin , OECD
14:25 – 14:40	Why measuring correctly coverage is important Alfonso Arpaia , European Commission Lucas Cifuentes Croquevielle , formerly Chilean Labour Inspector Office
14:40 – 15:10	Q&A and discussion
15:10 – 15:15	Concluding remarks Sandrine Cazes , OECD

[REGISTER IN ADVANCE FOR THIS MEETING](#)

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.