

## LABOUR

### **Tacking informal employment in Asia: building post-COV19 solutions to precariousness through case-study based evidence on Bhutan, Laos, Maldives, Myanmar, Philippines, Thailand & Vietnam**

Pierre Petit is the academic coordinator of this project for the ULB. It is funded by the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Research and Innovation Staff Exchange Programme (H2020-MSCA-RISE-2020).

#### **Summary:**

According to the last WESO report, there are over 1.4bn workers in vulnerable jobs worldwide, with numbers expected to rise in 2020 due to COVID-19. Several attempts have been made at both domestic and international levels to address these concerns. This includes efforts through the Sustainable Development Goals process, which includes a specific statistical indicator to measure informal employment (8.3.1), the formulation of SDG8 (decent work) and SDG9 (sustainable industrialization). Across countries and world regions, the degree to which SDGs have been used to address youth issues and inform national policies varies significantly. Indeed, in spite of the fact that the great majority of states have formally committed to addressing the SDGs, including those related to insecure employment, there is little evidence to indicate that developing regions currently have the capacity to systematically study the problems of informal employment and vulnerability in ways that facilitate the development and implementation of concrete viable solutions. This is due, in our view, to two major challenges. First, although a number of approaches that have been used inside the EU, there has been little, if any, attempt to adapt the existing framework elsewhere. Second, no systematic review of anti-precariousness policy has been attempted beyond the EU region. LABOUR is a research and training programme designed to address the above-mentioned shortfalls of research and development approaches with particular attention to a region where this is particularly worrying concern. Informal employment in Asia is estimated to account for 68.2% of the active population. By gathering a team of 14 participants that includes academic and non-academic partners working on labour insecurity, we aim not only at producing specialists on the topic and on the region but also at proposing concrete mitigation measures that can be taken into account by decision-makers and development organisations.

**Coordinator:** Tallinn University

**Network:** Dublin City University, Universitatea De Stat Din Moldova (Moldova State University, MSU), Stockholms Universitet, Instituto Universitário De Lisboa – Iscte, Latvijas Universitate (LU), Marmara University (MarUn), Université Libre de Bruxelles

The project has begun on 1/1/2022 and should last until 31/12/2025. The total budget is € 1545600, with € 82800 managed directly by the ULB.