Introduction to the BARWAGE project

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About BARWAGE

• The importance of collective bargaining for wage setting in the European Union (Sept 2022 – Aug 2024)

• Utrecht University (lead), CELSI, FDV & WageIndicator Foundation

• Supported by European Commission, AWVN & ETUI
About BARWAGE

BARWAGE is all about wage fixing through collective bargaining
What's bargaining got to do with it?

Quantify the impact of collective wage bargaining on setting adequate minimum wages for EU workers across countries and sectors by bargaining level.

Do sector and enterprise level bargaining help workers earn (substantially) more than the statutory minimum wage?
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Do sector and enterprise level bargaining help workers earn (substantially) more than the statutory minimum wage?
At what level are wages fixed?

Determine to what extent and how CBAs from nine EU countries (AT, BG, CZ, EE, ES, IT, FR, NL, PT) set wage levels and wage increases, and whether patterns by industry and bargaining level can be identified per country.

Code 400 CBAs from Estonia, Bulgaria, Czech Republic and Portugal and add them to the WageIndicator CBA Database.

Where do 900 CBAs set wages? And how?
Where can I find the wages?

Determine which arenas are important for wage setting in industries across nine EU countries in cases where wages are not set by pay scale tables in CBAs.

We look at those CBAs that did not include any pay scale tables.

We use a combination of natural language processing techniques and online interviews to determine where wages are set.
Whose wages are included in CBAs

Determine for which workers pay scales included in CBAs set wages in industries across nine EU countries.

We look at those CBAs that included any pay scale tables.

We match microdata on wages to CBA pay scales. Can we estimate how employees are distributed across the pay rates?

- Case studies in Italy and the Netherlands
Four wage setting arenas

Determine to what extent are wages set through collective bargaining, broken down by country, industry and bargaining level.

Summarizes the outcomes of the project

Use the findings from the first four research objectives to quantify the size of the national, sectoral, enterprise and individual wage setting arenas
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• Want to get more closely involved?
  – Reach out to Janna Besamusca ([J.W.Besamusca@uu.nl](mailto:J.W.Besamusca@uu.nl)) or Paulien Osse ([paulienosse@wageindicator.org](mailto:paulienosse@wageindicator.org))