

From proposal to experimentation: the right of trade union assembly at the time of the pandemic

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Before the Covid-19 crisis, we had already reflected upon the need to reconsider methods and means of exercising union rights precisely in the context of digital work (S.Donà, M.Marocco, 2019).

On the basis of these considerations we had already begun to outline an initial proposal regarding the use of information technology in exercising the right to meet –and the subsequent delocalization of that right –in order to lay the foundations upon which to progressively construct further union rights.

The Covid-19 crisis and the resulting social distancing have led to measures that have favored the spread of remote working.

In this work, by updating the work already done, it is proposed, first of all, the examination of the collective agreements signed in Italy that had to be faced with the need to ensure the exercise of the right of trade union assembly in safety.

The second part of the study addresses the other emerging problem –ways and means of extending union rights beyond the sphere of subordinate employment and especially to work carried out via digital platforms. Despite its socio-economic significance, this question has struggled to find a regulatory solution. Though there have been some initiatives –even at a European level –which our study will take into consideration, Italy lags behind other European countries, with regards to both collective contracts and legislation. From this point of view, the recognition of the right of trade union assembly seems to us an essential viaticum and, for this reason, our operational proposal on this specific sector will be further refined and detailed.

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