

► Employment Policies for Social Justice

Fifth Employment Policy Research Symposium

11-12 May 2023, International Labour Organization, Geneva

Introduction

The **ILO Employment Policy Research Symposium** is a forum for economists, specialists, policy makers and social partners to present and discuss original research, to network, and to learn about cutting-edge analytic techniques and new policy innovations in the area of employment policies. The Symposium aims to raise the profile and quality of ILO research and policy advice on employment policies and to better align it with a new global vision of social justice. Past meetings looked at questions of jobs and skill mismatch, full employment, and employment policies for recovery.

The 2023 Symposium, organized in partnership with the European Commission (EC) Joint Research Centre (JRC), focuses on the theme of **employment policies for social justice**. In plenary sessions and keynote addresses, the Symposium will highlight the latest thinking on how integrated national employment policies that are tailored to the needs and circumstances of countries promote inclusive transitions and social justice as outcomes of economic growth processes. In parallel sessions, the focus will be on the discussion of existing research on future of work challenges, policy evaluations and implications that can feed into employment policy development for social justice.

Background and key questions to be addressed

National employment policies should encompass all elements of a comprehensive framework, including supportive macroeconomic policies as well as sustained public and private investment in people and the economy. They need to complement social protection policies to ensure that structural transformation and other economic growth factors leave no one behind. Policy coherence and coordination are a condition for progress, whether to react to immediate crises or long-term economic and social challenges at the national level. At the same time, international cooperation and policy coherence are important enablers for inclusive structural transformation processes, helping to overcome the increased divergence between the developed and the developing world.

The ILO has an array of tools and research findings in the area of employment and decent work, often supported by cooperation programmes, including the project on “Building Partnerships on the Future of Work” funded by the EC and implemented together with the JRC. This project has, through innovative research, added to the wealth of knowledge that will feed into the debate about the right policies to ensure inclusive transitions and social justice. This is why this year’s Symposium is organized jointly with the JRC with the goal to present amongst others the results of the project and debate their policy implications.

Key questions tackled at the symposium will include:

- What is the impact of future of work drivers on structural transformation and labour market transitions?
- How can future of work drivers improve social justice?
- What is the link between social justice and integrated employment policies?

- How can we ensure that structural transformation is inclusive, leaving no one behind?
- What are the comprehensive frameworks that ensure the creation of more and better jobs?
- What is the role of governments and social partners in ensuring employment policies for social justice?

Objectives

- Discuss main challenges to social justice via decent work-rich and inclusive development and related policy solutions in the context of widening inequalities and multiple crises;
- Identify what works and discuss innovative policy approaches to supporting inclusive transitions and social justice;
- Take stock of the latest research on economic and employment policies and their nexus, including recent results from the ILO-EU joint project on “Building Partnerships on the Future of Work”;
- Identify key items for future policy research; and
- Strengthen partnerships and foster a global knowledge network amongst policy makers, social partners, international experts, the donor community, and academia.

The Symposium will also provide the occasion to launch the second ILO Global Employment Policy Review.

Participants

Under the joint leadership of ILO and JRC, the Symposium will bring together ILO staff, tripartite constituents, policy makers, experts from international agencies and the donor community, development partners, and academic and research institutions.

Contact

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