Topic & Call Anthology 2023

Pathways of Greening Labour Markets. Opportunities and Challenges for Regional and Local Labour Market Observation in Europe and Beyond

The reduction of greenhouse gas emissions is one of the main long-term policy goals of the European Union and individual European states. This is impacting on a broad range of political activities and policies as it is defined in particular by the environmental taxonomy regulation of the EU.

This green transformation will affect a lot of areas of the labour market, requiring new skills and qualifications and impacting the nature and geographic location of employer demand. Considering the importance of this new 'industrial revolution', the topic for the next anthology of papers, published annually by the EN RLMM, is „Pathways of Greening Labour Markets. Opportunities and Challenges for Regional and Local Labour Market Observation in Europe and beyond ".

Therefore, network members and associated colleagues, and/or organisations, are asked to submit papers on this year's topic. A number of papers will be presented at the Annual Conference, held for the first time in collaboration with the OECD LEED Programme on the 28th – 29th September, 2023 in Potsdam, Germany. This will be the 18th in a series of successful conferences on Regional and Local Labour Market Monitoring, hosted by the Brandenburg Economic Development Agency (WFBB) and the Network.

Europe's green transition will impact on nearly all occupations, skills and competencies. While some sectors will face decreasing demand for their products and services, others will experience quite the opposite. Inevitably decarbonisation will lead to job losses in some sectors and companies, while it will simultaneously produce new jobs and opportunities in others. These new risks and emerging opportunities, costs and benefits, will not necessarily materialise in the same regions. Enterprises as well as public and non-profit-sectors, will have to adapt to new demands and develop new products and services. This will require a labour force with new skills and competencies.

Regional and local Labour Market Observatories will need to understand and interpret these transitions and new complexities. They will need to develop new concepts and tools for measuring these changes and ensure their impacts and potentials are understood by policymakers.

Although this greening will influence the economy as a whole, it may be necessary to define specific targets within particular labour markets. Interested researchers and practitioners are invited to discuss the advantages and disadvantages of different approaches to labour market observation, and their applications, within their papers. Topics and ideas such as the following could be covered:

- What are the major challenges and opportunities impacting the green transition of regional and local labour markets?
- How are our labour markets transforming – in practice/real world scenarios? What are new emerging trends? In how far does the European Green Deal impacting the labour market in your region?
- How do you measure the greening of regional and local labour markets? What are the green skills sets and which of them are identified as priority in decarbonisation of the economy? And how to consider unintended effects e.g. within or across occupations, sectors or regions? Do you apply already existing classifications for sectors (branches), occupations and skills or do you explore new criteria or in how far are you related to the EU taxonomy? What are the specific schemes which are to be monitored (e.g. guidance, training, apprenticeship, reskilling

programmes, jobcenters, sectoral or occupational policies)? What kind of data do you use and what are your results?

- Do you have information about the readiness of the labour force for green skills?
- Could new technologies be enablers for the transition? Is AI relevant in this framework and are there other factors taking over the function of enablers? How do you tackle the problem of complexity and other transition factors such as regional or local factors e.g. infrastructure including digital/artificial intelligence, VET-structures and relevant policies? How do labour market actors including policy makers see their roles in assisting green transition and are there examples on how to promote green innovations in regional and local labour markets? How to understand to interplay between green and digital agendas having effects on reshaping local and regional demand and supply?
- How are policy makers informed by observatories, how to improve the usefulness of local and regional labour market information in times of systematic transitions? How do you measure the socio-economic impact of the green transition within local labour markets, which is crucial for ensuring a just transition?

Impacts from decarbonisation will not be felt consistently across regions. Those whose economies include activities related to mining, fossil fuel production, refineries etc., could lose considerable numbers of jobs, including many well-paid technical ones. Such regions will have to manage these transformations or structural changes, and Labour Market Observatories will be central to understanding the labour market-related consequences. It may, in practice, be easier to measure and understand these major changes than to nuance the impact across the economy as a whole.

As regional structural changes have always been part of general economic development, and many European regions have experienced such processes already in the 1970s and 1980s. Papers would be welcomed which seek to utilise existing understanding and recognised approaches which could be transferable to monitoring the regional structural changes caused by decarbonisation. Common factors to look at include de-industrialisation, unemployment, sectoral shifts and decreasing tax revenues. Regional and local Labour Market Observatories should inform the management of such processes and therefore engage in effective and responsive labour market monitoring.

Papers focussing on a single region or locality addressing structural change and what we can learn from that - which can be transferred to other localities – particularly those likely to be most impacted, are welcome. Practical examples of how observatories are monitoring an already transforming economy and/or labour market are also welcome.

For consistency, papers should seek to include answers to the following questions:

- Which region/locality is affected by the structural change? What is causing the transformation and what are the impacts on the labour market? What are the transferable lessons to help us understand the transition into a decarbonised economy?
- Is there already any institutionalised labour market monitoring in the region? Which quantitative and qualitative indicators are applied for monitoring effects on regional or local labour markets? What insights do they deliver?

As a special notion of the green transition could be also considered that it is structured by tools of an environmental taxonomy which are rigid, general and focus on specific classifications, with indicators, etc. At the EU level such taxonomy is already entered into force with the tool of the Regulation (EU exclusive competence) and Directives (shared competences between EU and states). This taxonomy shows industries, for instance, what kind of products they can produce or not, what are the green products, etc. Some questions which could be covered in papers:

- Are the regional and local Labour Market Observatories ready to open their visions and could they collect data according to the taxonomy as well as to consider the impact of such taxonomy in their regions or localities. This could be of relevance as it is still an open question

if and in how far companies and regions could react well to the requirements embedded in the taxonomy in terms of modifying products, services and skills sets. What will happen to companies which are not in the condition to react on the new requirements of the taxonomy and what are the consequences from this for the regional economy and labour market?

- In how far do these framework conditions have also impact on the services of public employment services (PES)? Are there sufficient knowledge and competences available to organise programmes and trainings in regions and localities?

If you would like to submit a paper, please send the preliminary title of the contribution and a short abstract to Jenny Kipper (jenny@jennykipper.de) and Christa Larsen (c.larsen@em.uni-frankfurt.de) by 31th January 2023. The full papers should be submitted to Jenny latest by 15th March 2023. If you have any further questions, please contact Jenny. We look forward to your contributions.