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CALL FOR PAPERS

Employment, Labour and Welfare in the Sustainable Transition

Final Conference of the Jean Monnet Project
Financial Innovation For Active Welfare Policies (FI4AWP)

Faculty of Law, University of Trento and Zoom Platform
May 18-19, 2022

The European Union and its Member States have adopted comprehensive strategies to address the socio-economic impact of Covid-19 on employment and productive capacity of enterprises. Many of the measures put in place, although extraordinary and exceptional, have reshaped the structure of work organization models, social security systems and welfare systems. Remote work and short-time work schemes, for example, have taken centre stage throughout Europe, while the scope of income support schemes has been extended to categories previously excluded, such as the self-employed. In addition, under the impetus of the crisis, measures based on sustainable finance have been introduced (e.g. SURE).

With the approval of the Next Generation EU and the Multiannual Financial Framework 2021-2027, the European institutions aim to take this legacy forward in order to foster post-pandemic recovery and support the twin transition to a green and digital economy. The direction is indicated by the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the European Pillar of Social Rights Action Plan, that define the context within which public and private action shall be developed.

In this scenario, the concept of sustainable transition takes centrality, imposing itself as the key word and guiding thread of the changes underway. The development of an holistic approach, that balances the social, environmental and economic dimensions, is crucial to shed light on this multifaceted concept. For this reason, the conference aims to involve academics and professionals in an interdisciplinary dialogue between theory and practice. Ranging through legal, economic, financial, sociological and political perspectives, the conference aims to offer a pluralistic view of the issues addressed.

The Organizing committee invites young scholars from different disciplines, as well as young professionals at the beginning of their careers, to engage in this debate by submitting contributions that develop one of the following topics:

Track 1 | Inclusive post-pandemic transition: actors, models and investments

The European Union and the Member States have implemented exceptional economic and social measure to counteract the severe employment impact of the pandemic. These efforts will be progressively replaced by legal provisions, relational schemes and form of public and private investments developed to support the economic recovery. This session of the conference intends to investigate the changes brought about by the introduction of anti-crisis measures and to examine the initiatives adopted at national and European level to help the recovery from the coronavirus. The objective is to discuss their strengths and their weaknesses from the perspective of inclusiveness and sustainability. Against this background, contributions may consider, by way of example, the following topics:

- Missions of the National Recovery and Resilience Plans, for instance:
 - Digitisation, automation and innovation
 - Networks, Infrastructures and Territories
 - Education and research
 - Active labour policies
- Measures and interventions to support enterprises and self-employment
- European structural and investment funds for employment, labour and welfare
- Public-private partnerships and the role of the third sector
- Case studies and best practices

Track 2 | Twin transition and labour markets

One of the major challenges facing the European Union and its Member States is the promotion of a sustainable economy through the twin digital and ecological transition. For the transition to be sustainable, however, environmental and digital solutions must be closely linked to objectives of social equity and employment protection. Starting from this consideration, this session of the conference intends to examine the emerging connections between environment, technology, work organization and employment. Against this background, contributions may consider, by way of example, the following topics:

- Employment relations, work organization and digitalisation in the public and private sectors
- Skilling, upskilling, reskilling and digital competences
- Technological progress and/or climate change and trade union strategies
- Labour market policies and/or industrial policies to support sectors affected by green and/or digital transition
- Green transition and green jobs/digital transition and digital jobs
- Case studies and best practices

Track 3 | Employment transitions of vulnerable workers

The impact of the pandemic crisis has been uneven among workers. It affected more severely the vulnerable groups, such as women, migrants, young people, often employed in economic sectors with low wages and precarious working conditions (e.g. gig-workers, economically dependent self-employed workers), further deepening the long-existing labour market dualism. This session of the conference intends to investigate the policies, measures and interventions aimed at facilitating their (re)integration in the labour market. Against this background, contributions may consider, among others, the following themes:

- Projects and strategies for social-labour market inclusion of migrants
- Participation of women in the labour market
- School dropout and school-to-work transition of young people
- Active aging and labour market

- Projects and strategies for social-labour market inclusion of ex-offenders
- Case studies and best practices

Track 4 | Sustainable transition and financial innovation

A sustainable transition to a zero-emission economy will require massive public and private investments. Thus, European institutions have set out a comprehensive strategy to connect finance with sustainability in order to re-orient private capital towards activities with positive environmental impacts as well as projects that enhance the protection of human rights and workers' rights. This evolutionary context is widening the intersection between public policies (labour, social, environmental) and finance, raising new issues and questions. This session of the conference intends to explore such matters through contributions that focus, by way of example on the following topics:

- Sustainable investments and ESG (Environmental, Social and Governance) factors.
- Sustainable financial products and socially responsible companies
- Ecological transformation and green bonds
- Greenwashing and social washing practices and counteracting strategies
- Measurement and verification of sustainable social impact
- Case studies and best practices

Contributions on topics that are not included in the previous tracks will also be accepted if deemed relevant to the development of the debate by the Scientific Committee.

Instructions for submissions

The Call for papers is addressed to young scholars (PhD students and PhDs, post-docs or researchers with maximum 8 years of experience), as well as young professionals (with maximum 8 years of experience).

Applicants should send by **April 10, 2022** an abstract of maximum 800 words (excluding title and references), indicating the chosen track, to the following e-mail address:
fi4awp.finalconference@gmail.com.

Both English and Italian contributions are welcome.

Abstract selection, conference participation and publication

The Scientific Committee, which will be composed of experts from different disciplines, will select the abstracts on the basis of the following evaluation criteria:

- pertinency/relevance of the issue addressed with respect to the Conference topics
- adequacy of the methodology;
- clarity of exposition;
- originality of the subject and of the results.

The outcome of the selection will be communicated by **April 20, 2022**.

The authors of the selected papers will take part in the respective thematic sections of the Conference and will discuss their contributions with expert speakers, academics and professionals.

Moreover, the contributions selected by the Scientific Committee, if adequately revised and adapted to essay format, will be published in a volume edited in the Series of the Faculty of Law, University of Trento.

Organization and running of the conference

The conference will take place in a dual mode: in presence at the Faculty of Law of the University of Trento and online through the ZOOM platform.

The University of Trento will cover the travel and accommodation expenses of those who decide to present their contribution in presence.

The working languages of the sessions will be English and Italian. Interpreting service will be available.

Calendar and summary of deadlines

Abstract submission | 10.04.2022

Communication of selected abstracts | 20.04.2022

Conference dates | 18-19.05.2022

Contacts

Please address any query regarding the organisation of the conference to the following email address: **fi4awp.finalconference@gmail.com**

For further information on the Jean Monnet Project "*Financial Innovation For Active Welfare Policies*" (2019-2022), supported by the European Commission under the Programme Erasmus+, please visit the website: **<https://cjm.unitn.it/fin4awp>**.

Organising Committee

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