Topic & Call for Papers
EN RLMM Anthology 2027

Holistic Approaches to Observing Youth Transitions During Times of Disruption

Members of the European Network on Regional Labour Market Monitoring (EN RLMM),[1]

Members of the European Training Foundation (ETF)' Skills Lab Network of Experts,[2]

You are invited to contribute to new knowledge, evidence and insights on youth employment and labour market position by submitting papers for this Anthology to be published in September 2027. The aim of the Anthology is to showcase the link between effective monitoring and successful policy interventions focusing on transitions into work and labour market opportunities for young people. You will see below a list of four thematic areas expected for the topic of papers, in which key questions and focus areas are described. The average length of each paper is expected to be 10-pages (no longer than 10 pages of standard A4 including references and a short biography, a title, and the full names and titles of the authors; around 5000 words).

Selection Criteria

We explicitly encourage contributions that use causal inference or comparative national, regional, local and sectoral analysis, draw on longitudinal or administrative data, and offer clear, evidence-based policy insights. At the same time, we will appreciate research and practice evidence from foresight and other future-oriented methods and methodologies, particularly suitable in a complex and fast changing labour market and policy contexts across regions and countries.

Within the Anthology we will embrace a holistic perspective, covering all areas of education (vocational, professional, and higher education/academic) as well as 'employability' - as a cross-cutting element that shape labour market opportunities for young people. Papers will also shine a light on factors that shape differences across regions, economies, and sectors – to help with effective valorisation. Each article should end with clear recommendations on how the respective approach/example can benefit evidence-based policy decision-making in regions and localities.

As you see below in the timetable for producing the Anthology, the deadline for the submission of abstracts is 1 December 2026. Anyone who is a member in either one of these two networks can apply for the Call, by sending an abstract in English, around 500 – 1000 words. Besides the thematic relevance to the call, the abstracts should provide clear indication on the content structure and research

[1] This is the European Network on Regional Labour Market Monitoring (EN RLMM), open to all labour market researchers in Europe and beyond. Created in 2005, it organises annual conference and publishes an Anthology ever year around the selected teams. For more info, see EN RLMM – European Network on Regional Labour Market Monitoring.

[2] This is the ETF's voluntary network of labour market experts, primarily targeting its own partner countries in (Western Balkans and Türkiye, Southern and Eastern Mediterranean, Eastern Neighbourhood and Central Asia) (Where we work | ETF). Launched in 2021, it brings experts and researchers together from different institutions and countries to co-create, exchange, and disseminate labour market and skills demand research. ETF's Skills Lab Network of Experts is open to any expert across the world who registers in the network.

methodology using a good level of English. Selected abstracts will be communicated by 20 December 2026 the latest and final draft papers should be submitted by 19 February 2027.

Timetable for the production of the Anthology

Launch of the call for papers (first, abstracts)	1 October 2026
Submission of abstracts	1 December 2026 (deadline)
Information on the selected articles to authors	20 December 2026 (deadline)
Submission of full articles for peer review	19 February 2027 (deadline)
Finalisation of all manuscripts for EN-editing	March-April Editing and Feedback with the authors 01 May 2027 delivery to publisher (deadline)
Publication is ready for the conference	mid/end August 2027

The Anthology will have two parts: one primarily for members of the EN RLMM and one similarly for the ETF's Skills Lab Network. The Members of EN RLMM should submit their abstracts to Christa Larsen (c.larsen@em.uni-frankfurt.de), while the Members of ETF Skills Lab should submit their abstracts to Cristiana Burzio (ETFSkillslab@etf.europa.eu).

The authors of selected articles will be invited to present their work at the international conference on this topic, which will be organised jointly by the European Network of EN RLMM and ETF's Skills Lab Network on 16-17 September 2027 in Turin. The conference constitutes the annual gathering of both Networks together, hosted by the European Training Foundation in Turin (Italy).

Authors should note that the final decisions on the selection of abstracts as well as paper presentations will depend on the number of quality submissions received and time available within the conference programme. If you have any further questions, please contact Christa Larsen or Cristiana Burzio. We look forward to receiving your contributions.

Proposed Thematic Areas for Papers

1. Youth Transitions into Work in Times of Uncertainty

This theme explores how economic, social, and geopolitical disruptions are reshaping young people's transition from education to employment.

Possible Topics

- Changing patterns of labour market entry, including the decline or transformation of entry-level jobs
- The growth of internships, temporary contracts, platform work, and other forms of precarious employment
- The role of vocational education and training (VET), higher education, and apprenticeships in supporting transitions
- Early school leaving, labour market exclusion, and "hidden" inactivity among young people, including NEETs
- The effects of inflation, economic crises, post-pandemic restructuring, and geopolitical instability on youth employment
- Displacement, disrupted education, and labour market integration of young refugees and migrants
- Career planning, mobility, and migration decisions in uncertain labour markets

- Differences between urban, rural, peripheral, and cross-border labour markets

Guiding Questions

- Are entry-level jobs disappearing or changing in form?
- Which institutions and support systems best support successful school-to-work transitions?
- How can vulnerable young people be identified and supported earlier?
- How do local and regional labour markets shape opportunities for young people?

2. Skills, Artificial Intelligence, and the Future of Work

This theme focuses on how digitalisation and artificial intelligence are changing skills demand, job roles, and employability.

Possible Topics

- The impact of AI and automation on entry-level and junior roles
- Digital, data, and AI-related skills requirements across sectors
- Skill mismatches and inequalities in access to digital opportunities
- The influence of generative AI on learning, critical thinking, creativity, and problem-solving
- Hybrid learning, digital education, and employability outcomes
- Generational attitudes to work, career expectations, and job security
- Mental health and well-being in relation to education and labour market readiness
- Graduate tracking, labour market intelligence, and skills forecasting systems

Guiding Questions

- How is AI reshaping early-career employment opportunities?
- Are education and training systems preparing young people for AI-driven labour markets?
- Who benefits from technological change, and who risks being left behind?
- What new responsibilities do education providers, employers, and policymakers have in the AI era?

3. Inclusive and Sustainable Labour Markets: The Triple Transition

This theme examines how digital, green, and social transitions are reshaping labour markets and inequalities.

Possible Topics

- The “Triple Transition” and its implications for youth employment and skills
- Green jobs, digital transformation, and socially sustainable labour markets
- Social inclusion, inequality, and fair access to new opportunities
- Housing insecurity, living costs, and barriers to labour market participation
- The role of labour market monitoring in supporting inclusive transitions
- The relationship between technological change, job quality, and social cohesion
- Public sector and mission-oriented careers in changing labour markets

Guiding Questions

- Is the Triple Transition creating new opportunities or widening inequalities?
- Which groups of young people are most at risk of exclusion?
- How can education, labour market, and social policies support fair and inclusive transitions?

- What does a sustainable and resilient labour market look like for younger generations?

4. Policies, Institutions, and Local Responses

This theme explores policies and institutional arrangements that support successful youth transitions into employment.

Possible Topics

- Evaluation of policies such as the Youth Guarantee and related employment initiatives
- Effective combinations of education, labour market, and social (including social partner) support policies
- Employer incentives and strategies for recruiting and retaining young workers
- Local and regional partnerships between schools, employers, training providers, and employment services
- Governance and coordination across local, regional, national, European, and international levels
- Policy responses to AI regulation, labour market transformation, and platform work
- Comparative and international perspectives on labour market integration

Guiding Questions

- Which policy approaches are most effective in improving long-term outcomes for young people?
- How can local and regional institutions strengthen labour market resilience?
- Are current policy frameworks suited to increasingly non-linear and crisis-affected transitions?
- What lessons can be learned from international and comparative experiences?