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Call for papers

Youth Employment Research Forum

The dynamics of youth employment and its supporting policy framework

The ILO, IDRC and INCLUDE invite researchers to submit proposals to present innovative research papers relevant to the future of youth employment. The deadline for submission is Friday, 20 October 2023.

Background

The International Labour Organization (ILO), the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) of the Government of Canada and the INCLUDE Knowledge Platform on Inclusive Development Policies are planning a Youth Employment Research Forum to discuss issues linked to the future of youth employment. The Forum will bring together researchers from across the globe, who are advancing the frontiers of knowledge on youth employment and contributing to the evidence base. Tagging to the forthcoming 20th anniversary edition of the ILO [Global Employment Trends for Youth 2024](#), the research themes selected for discussion at the Research Forum have in common their exploration of “the dynamics of youth employment and its supporting policy framework”. This means building the evidence base on what has changed in the realm of youth employment over the past two decades to help explain the current and future circumstances of labour market entry and job outcomes for young people.

Key information about the Call for Papers and Forum

Organizers: The International Labour Organization (ILO), the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) and INCLUDE

Submission deadline (proposals): 20 October 2023

Notification of acceptance: 3 November 2023

Submission deadline (presentation): 29 November 2023

Forum date and place: 5-6 December 2023, Geneva, Switzerland

Language: Proposals and presentations should be submitted in English. The Research Forum will be held in English only.

Forum research tracks

The Forum will cover three research tracks as follows:

Track 1: The changing socioeconomic landscapes of youth employment

This track seeks papers that investigate the influence of the socioeconomic context on youth employment outcomes. Papers might discuss the effects of macroeconomic fragility, multiple crises, poverty, institutional gaps (such as those embedded in the rule of law or the fundamental principles and rights at work), as well as the limitations of structural transformation and economic growth, and more.

Tags: macroeconomics, economic growth, development, structural transformation, crisis, fragility, globalization, poverty, working poverty, politics, governance, freedom of association, labour unions, collective bargaining, social dialogue, inequality

Track 2: Future of work influences on youth labour market transitions

This track welcomes papers that investigate how various “mega trends” of the future of work are driving changes in the supply of and demand for young workers. Papers might address elements of technological, environmental, demographic and globalization changes as determinants of youth labour market outcomes. Specifically,

- On the demand-side, papers might highlight the technology-linked emergence and destruction/creation of occupations and sectors (the influence of AI, for instance), demand shifts related to demographic trends or climate or environmental/green influences including in support of a Just Transition, shifts in trade patterns and global supply chains, and much more.
- On the supply side and intermediation, papers might examine changes in the returns to education, the marketization of educational institutions, discrimination and social exclusion, “delayed adulthood” and much more.

Tags: future of work, AI, digitalization, ageing, climate change, technology, just transition, trade, supply chains, education, university, mismatch, migration, brain drain

Track 3: The changing youth employment policy landscape

This track seeks papers that examine trends in the design and implementation of youth employment policies as well as evaluations of policy outcomes (links to “what works”). Papers might look at the application of youth guarantees, shifts in policy focuses over time (supply-side to demand-side policies, for example, or increased attention to NEETs as policy target), targeted versus integrated policy approaches, and more.

Tags: labour market policy, youth guarantees, activation, targeting, inclusion, cost-benefit, monitoring frameworks

A focus on gender and diversity issues will be welcome in papers of all tracks.

Fees and expenses

There will be no fee for conference participants. Travel costs must be met from participants’ own resources, although fellowships will be available for authors of selected papers who are from and reside in developing or emerging countries (see “Fellowships” below).

Fellowships

The ILO, the IDRC and INCLUDE are committed to creating an environment for global research dialogue, especially between developed and developing countries. To this end, numerous fellowships have been put

aside to support researchers from and residing in developing or emerging countries, with a particular focus on young researchers below the age of 35 years.

Interested researchers are strongly encouraged to indicate their interest to be considered for a Fellowship at the time of submission of the paper abstracts (no later than 20 October).

Successful applicants will receive fellowship grants of an amount determined by the estimated cost of travel and other expenses. In the case of multiple authors, only one author will be granted the fellowship.

Instructions for submission and timelines:

Those interested should submit a 2-3-page proposal to youth@ilo.org by 20 October 2023.

Papers can be national, cross-country, regional or global in scope.

The paper abstract/proposal should include:

- Full paper title;
- Full name, affiliation, address, phone/fax/e-mail of one author for all correspondence;
- Recent C.V. of principal author;
- For all other authors, full name, affiliation and e-mail;
- Identification of the relevant track (1-3 above);
- Short introductory summary (approximately 1,000 words);
- Arguments regarding the paper's relevance;
- Summary of the main findings and conclusions; and
- Indication of interest in consideration of a Fellowship grant

A Committee of Experts, consisting of prominent youth employment experts and researchers from the ILO and IDRC will evaluate submitted proposals on the basis of their originality, quality and policy relevance.

The authors of the selected proposals will be contacted no later than 3 November 2023.

Forum committee

Dorothea Schmidt-Klau, ILO Geneva

Sara Elder, ILO Geneva

Niall O'Higgins, ILO Geneva

Susana Puerto Gonzalez, ILO Geneva

Chiara Curcio, ILO Geneva

Samuel Asfaha, ILO Geneva

Michael Watt, ILO Geneva

Lacina Diarra, IDRC, Ottawa

Martha Melesse, IDRC, Ottawa

Anika Altaf, INCLUDE Leiden University