



# European Welfare States in Crisis? Labour markets in flux?

WeLaR Introductory Webinar  
27 February 2023, 14h – 15h30 CET  
Online Meeting



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# Agenda

Understanding the impact of digitalisation, globalisation, climate change and demographic shifts on labour markets and welfare states in Europe: a new Horizon Europe project

Presentation by Karolien Lenaerts (HIVA-KU Leuven)

Policymaking in a state of permacrisis: can the EU uphold its social ambitions?

Presentation by Bart Vanhercke (OSE)

Comment from Aída Ponce del Castillo (ETUI)

Open discussion

Job quality gaps between migrant and native gig workers: evidence from Poland

Presentation by Zuzanna Kowalik (IBS)

Comment from Agnieszka Chłoń-Domińczak (Warsaw School of Economics)

Open discussion

Engaging with applied research on labour markets and welfare states

Presentation by Ursula Holtgrewe and Barbara Glinsner (ZSI)



# Understanding the impact of digitalisation, globalisation, climate change and demographic shifts on labour markets and welfare states in Europe: a new Horizon Europe project

Karolien Lenaerts



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# What is WeLaR?

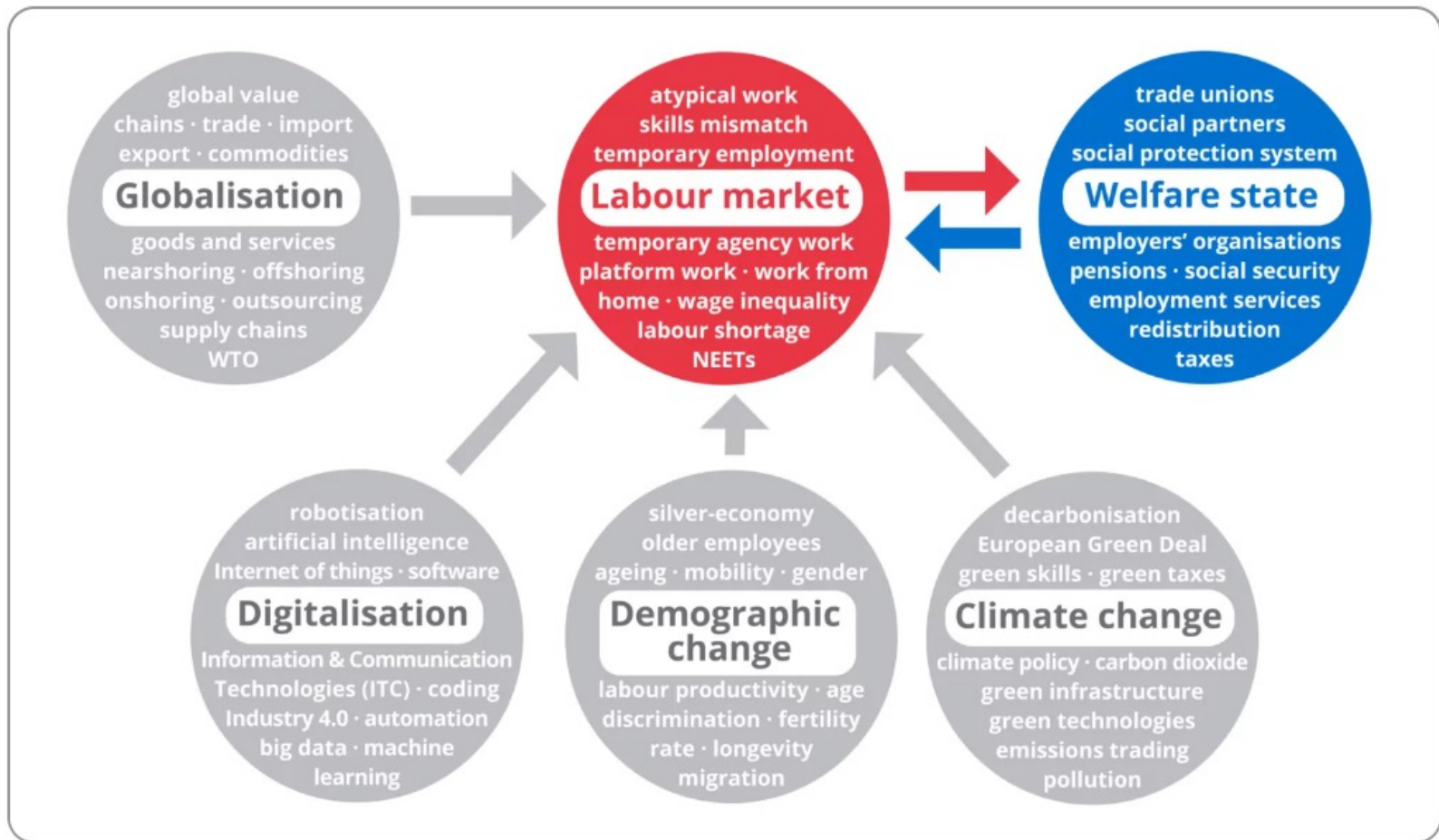


- Interdisciplinary research project funded under the Horizon Europe programme that is implemented by 10 partners
- Investigate the impact of global megatrends on labour markets and welfare states in Europe in order to:
  - improve our **understanding of the individual and combined effects** of these trends on labour markets and welfare states in Europe;
  - identify **policy measures that foster socio-economic resilience and inclusive, sustainable growth**, and propose **ways to adapt welfare systems** so that they can address the challenges posed by these megatrends and new forms of work.





# What do we study and why?



# How do we study this?



## Conceptual framework and joint infrastructure

Interactions between welfare policies and labour market aspects of megatrends

Labour supply  
trends

Labour market  
institutions and  
risks

Labour demand  
trends

Shaping forward-looking inclusive societies and economies

Welfare states  
and public  
finance

Preferences,  
policy and social  
innovation

Stakeholder  
engagement



# Strengths of our approach



- **Multidisciplinary approach:**
  - Quantitative and qualitative research
  - Lessons from social innovation initiatives
- **Multilevel approach:**
  - Trends and impacts at national, regional, sectoral, firm, worker, ... levels
  - Purposeful integration of trends and impacts within tasks
  - Analyses for the entire European Union
- **Current trends and their future developments:**
  - Scenario-building and foresight exercises
  - Policy recommendations
- **Involvement of Advisory Board and stakeholder community**



# External Expert Advisory Board



- **Prof. Dr. Agnieszka Chłoń-Domińczak**  
Warsaw School of Economics
- **Prof. Dr. Andrew Clark**  
Paris School of Economics
- **Prof. Dr. Mario Pianta**  
Scuola Normale Superiore
- **Dr. Aída Ponce del Castillo**  
European Trade Union Institute
- **Dr. Christoph T. Weiss**  
European Investment Bank



# WeLaR outputs and events



## Project outputs

- 24 research papers
- 4 policy briefs
- 1 foresight report

## Project events

- 2 conferences
- 6 workshops
- 6 roundtables/webinars
- 4 open virtual cafés



# Stay in touch with WeLaR



## Content

[Message from the Project Manager - Karolien Lenaerts](#)

[WeLaR in a nutshell](#)

[Project WeLaR launched to examine how megatrends affect labour markets, welfare state](#)

[WeLaR researchers present their work at UNTANGLED conference](#)

[WeLaR aims and objectives presented to labour market researchers](#)

## From the Editors

We are thrilled to announce that Project WeLaR is getting under way! Beginning with this newsletter, every three months we'll be updating you on how we're improving our understanding of the way four megatrends – demographic shifts, globalisation, digitalisation and climate change – affect labour markets and welfare systems in the EU.

Over 36 months we'll be developing policy proposals to foster economic growth and contribute to its fair distribution across society, generating opportunities for all. In this issue, Karolien Lenaerts shows in more detail what the objectives of our consortium are, how we want to reach them and what you can expect from us. We also present "WeLaR in a nutshell", where you'll find all the basic facts about our project.

In the three months since WeLaR launched on 1 September, we've been busy getting the project up and running. That included setting up our website, [www.projectwelar.eu](http://www.projectwelar.eu), and establishing our social media presence, which we'll use to share our findings and engage in debates on the challenges the four megatrends pose for the labour market and the welfare state.

All consortium members met on 8 November to plan our work for the coming months; you can read more about our kick-off meeting in this issue.

During the first quarter of Project WeLaR, we've already begun collaborating with other projects that investigate similar topics. We presented WeLaR during an online virtual café from Project UNTANGLED. Additionally, some of our researchers also presented their earlier work on various aspects of labour markets during a conference organised by UNTANGLED.

We're also planning our first WeLaR event: a webinar to present the project and build our community of stakeholders. The first three months have been an intense time of working behind the scenes, and now we're ready to take the stage! Look for more announcements of research and events in the months to come.



## Project website

<https://projectwelar.eu/>



## Newsletter

Quarterly, [Sign up here](#)



## Press releases



## Social media



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[www.projectwelar.eu](http://www.projectwelar.eu)



# Policymaking in a state of permacrisis: can the EU uphold its social ambitions?

Bart Vanhercke



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# Job quality gaps between migrant and native gig workers: evidence from Poland

Zuzanna Kowalik



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# Engaging with applied research on labour markets and welfare states

Ursula Holtgrewe and Barbara Glinsner



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WeLaR is Horizon Europe research project examining the impact of digitalisation, globalisation, climate change and demographic shifts on labour markets and welfare states in Europe. It aims to improve the understanding of the individual and combined effects of these trends and to develop policy proposals fostering economic growth that is distributed fairly across society and generates opportunities for all.

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