



WeLaR Conference

The effects of digitalisation, globalisation, climate change and demographic shifts on labour markets and welfare states in the European Union

12 June 2025 | 9:00 AM – 4:45 PM CET | Hotel Thon EU, Brussels

09:00 – 09:30 am Registration and coffee

09:30 – 09:40 am **Welcome, introduction to the project and the conference**

09:40 – 10:40 am **Keynote by Professor Francesco Vona (University of Milan)**

10:40 – 11:00 am *Coffee break*

11:00 am – 1:00 pm

Session 1
Digitalisation, automation and the future of work
Chair: Mikkel Barslund

TBC
Artificial Intelligence in Coaching: Improving Productivity and Communication Quality for Call Center Agents

Piotr Lewandowski
Workers' Exposure to AI Across Development

Sabrina Genz
Bargaining for the Future: Collective Agreements and Firm-Level Automation Decisions

Tommaso Ciarli
Advertised Technologies: Identifying Adoption of Emerging Technologies in Online Job Postings

Session 2
Training, qualifications and social innovations
Chair: Alexandre Gnaedinger

Elisabeth Felbermair
Öko-Booster: Training Young Immigrants as Skilled Workers for the Energy Transition in Vienna

Ursula Holtgrewe
Repair, Resistance, Transformation and What Lies in Between: How Social Innovations Articulate Megatrends and Navigate Social Policies

Angela Ulrich
Career Guidance in Working Life as an Socio-Political Approach to Adapting Professional Qualifications to Transformation: A Qualitative Stakeholder Study

Session 3
Technological change and work
Chair: Karolien Lenaerts

Mantej Singh Pardesi
Technology, Capital Vintages and Training - Role of Capital Investments in Firm's Skill Formation Strategy

Roman Klauser
The Rise of Digital Technologies and their Impact on Demand for Labor and Skills

Alireza Sabouniha
Offshoring, Technological Change, Labour Market Institutions and the Demand for Typical and Atypical Employment in Europe

Ekaterina Prytkova
The Employment Impact of Emerging Digital Technologies



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WeLaR is an interdisciplinary research project examining the impact of four megatrends – digitalisation, globalisation, climate change and demographic shifts – on labour markets and welfare states in Europe.

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01:00 – 02:00 pm *Lunch break*

02:00 – 03:00 pm

Session 4
Climate change, green transitions and labour markets
Chair: Piotr Lewandowski

Jessica Wiest
Wages in the Green Transition

Cesar Barreto
The “Clean Energy Transition” and the Cost Of Job Displacement in Energy-Intensive Industries

Session 5
Social policy, welfare preferences and inequality
Chair: Laurène Thil

Fabrizio Pompei
Reforms and In-Work Poverty in the EU

Marko Vladislavljević
Income Inequality, Voting, and Preferences for Redistribution in Europe

Session 6
Remote work, telework and new work modalities
Chair: Ursula Holtgrewe

Frederic de Wispelaere
Teleworking Frontier Workers and Digital Nomads: Not Here to Stay After All?

Ilse Tobback
Telework Preferences Among Students and New Entrants to the Labour Market: A Stated Preference Experiment

03:00 – 03:30 pm *Coffee break*

03:30 – 04:30 pm

Nicola Gagliardi
The Productivity Impact of Global Warming: Firm-Level Evidence for Europe

Pol Barbé
Measuring Investment in Education to Advance Social Investment in Europe

Jelena Reljic
The Impact of Robots on Workplace Injuries and Deaths: Empirical Evidence from Europe

Toon Vandyck
Amplifying Rigidities: Revisiting Economic Impacts of Climate Policy Under Imperfect Labour Markets

Jaewook Lee
How Does the Macroeconomic Context and Employment Prospects Affect Support for Welfare Chauvinism? Evidence from a New Survey

Jarne Heylen
The Impact of Telework Modalities on Psychosocial Risks in the Digital Age: Revealing Trends and Socio-Demographic Disparities

04:30 – 04:45 pm *Concluding remarks*

Practical information on next page



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WeLaR Conference

Meeting venue

Thon Hotel EU, Rue de la Loi/Wetstraat 75, 1040 Brussels

Located in the heart of the European district in Brussels.

Conference language

The working language of the conference is English. No simultaneous interpretation will be provided.

Registration

Participation in the conference is free of charge, but registration is required.

Please complete your registration via [this link](#) before **5 June 2025**.

Cancellation

Cancellations must be made in writing to the conference secretariat at: inge.vanderwaeren@kuleuven.be

Please note that cancellations made after the registration deadline may incur a fee, in accordance with [KU Leuven policy](#).

If you are unable to attend, you may nominate a replacement. Please inform the secretariat at least two working days before the conference



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