



Anthology 2025: Call for Papers

Anticipation of Future Developments in the Labour Markets: Methods, Data and Practices of Knowledge Transfer in Regions and Localities Across Europe and Beyond.

For 20 years, the 400 members of the European Network on Regional Labor Market Monitoring (EN RLMM) have been supporting the labour market actors with gathering of data, information and intelligence to help solving labour and skills related problems, and at the same time, stimulate developments of local and regional economies. These contributions are making a significant positive impact, also to ensure that evidence-based decision-making becomes a frequent practice in European regions and beyond.

However, local and regional governance is increasingly affected by ongoing trends and changes in and outside of employment contexts. Current, and more importantly, future developments are determined by multiple transformation processes that generate high dynamics of change in economies and labour markets. These effects are evident also in regions and the localities, which often become vulnerable to impacts of changes because of limited preparation and forward planning. The pace of transformation not only suggests but demands future-oriented strategies to be developed to guide best decisions and practices.

However, the high dynamic of change, not least determined by unexpected external events such as wars, pandemics or environmental, financial and economic crises, poses major challenges in anticipating future developments in the economies and the labour markets. Key existing methods, such as regional forecasts, are quickly reaching their limits, particularly because they no longer adequately capture possible outcomes with projections based on data that represent largely different structural, technological and social circumstances. Past developments can no longer serve as realistic and plausible predictions of future events. It is therefore necessary to develop and use new methods and procedures to anticipate future developments in the regional and the local economies and labour markets. In addition to statistical data, other types of information are as relevant and should become incorporated into methodological toolkits and discussions about the possibilities future might bring.

Data and information from various sources can be used to gain insights into evolving regional and local labour markets (from a variety of quantitative data, through to descriptive qualitative information, which provides detailed insights and are particularly useful to explain and understand new developments). Both quantitative and qualitative approaches are now often combined in innovative methodological designs. It is important that as widest a range of complementary methods is used to build a rich picture of future reality (including qualitatively-oriented foresight approaches and quantitatively-oriented forecasting methods).

Solid data and rich information has always underpinned transparent decision-making spreading around positive impact such evidence can offer to many actors. What is important,



however, is that all evidence and intelligence can reach decision-makers in regional politics, the labour market and business as only then the development of suitable future-oriented strategies can be achieved. Regional and local strategy development represents a collaborative practice which is particularly effective if diverse sets of data, tools and scenarios are considered, and particularly beneficial in times of great upheaval and declining resources for public services.

Given the fast changing context and a need to develop the future-focused competencies for the study of labour markets and local economies, for our *20th Anniversary EN RLMM Anthology*, we would like to invite papers that discuss both the opportunities and the limitations of current quantitative and qualitative methods and approaches (or their combinations). We particularly welcome papers that explore in depth the use of data and information within such approaches. Papers should incorporate information on time horizons of the examples presented, clearly stating the purpose and context of data use.

In addition, we seek contributions on how the subsequent labour market intelligence and prognostic information is used between diverse decision-makers and communicated to different target groups, or how the needs of these target groups can be integrated into the process of data generation, validation and decision-making. We particularly welcome papers that demonstrate how evidence-based decision-making and policy-making might look like in regions and localities. We seek examples of good practice that examine which factors and governance structures can prove to be beneficial or limiting when incorporating prognostic evidence into decision-making processes. Papers could consider examples of collaboration between very different actors such as academia-labour services-labour market observatories-public/private organisations to show how decision-making process is enriched and mediated by partnerships that encourage collaborative experiences across traditional "silos" in which typically labour research and decisions are made.

Each contribution should end with clear recommendations on how the respective approach/example can benefit evidence-based policy decision-making in regions and localities.

We will aim to present as many of the Anthology contributions during the 20th Anniversary Conference of the European Network on Regional Labor Market Monitoring (EN RLMM) taking place between 17th to 19th September 2025 at the Goethe University Frankfurt a.M. in Germany, however, authors should note that the final decision will depend on the number of quality submissions received and time available in the conference programme.

If you would like to submit a contribution to the Anthology of the European Network on Regional Labour Market Monitoring (ENRLMM), please send the preliminary title of your paper and a short abstract to Jenny Kipper (jenny@jennykipper.de) and Christa Larsen (c.larsen@em.uni-frankfurt.de) by 20th December 2024. The full articles should be submitted to Jenny Kipper by 10th February 2025. If you have any further questions, please contact Jenny Kipper. We look forward to receiving your contributions.