



EN RLMM 1/2026

Frankfurt, 4th February 2026

**Dear colleagues,**

We hope you have all had a successful start to the new year. In 2026, regional labour markets will continue to evolve dynamically. Monitoring these shifts remains a challenge, particularly regarding the required data and the emergence of new, evolving collection techniques and methodologies. With this in mind, our objective for 2026 is to foster intensive exchange among network members to identify innovative approaches and share these experiences as widely as possible.

To support this, we plan to increase our activity within the LinkedIn group by providing regular updates on the network's diverse initiatives. Furthermore, the working group focused on AI, specifically its impact on the labour market and skills development, has launched with great enthusiasm. We have also commenced work on this year's Anthology and are pleased to share the initial planning stages for the Annual Meeting in Bilbao. Additionally, we continue to receive valuable contributions from members regarding EU-level, national, and regional developments, which we look forward to sharing. Please read on for more details on these topics.

#### **ANTHOLOGY 2026**

We are delighted that over 30 network members have committed to contributing 22 articles to this year's Anthology. The perspectives shared by our authors on the theme "*Transformation of occupations and skills caused by current transitions in connection with economic crises, global conflicts, and migration trends*" are once again highly diverse. This promises a rich and insightful discussion at the Annual Meeting in Bilbao. Deadline for handing in articles will be already on the 20th of February 2026.

#### **ANNUAL MEETING 2026**

At the invitation of the Provincial Council of Biscay in the Basque Country, the network's Annual Meeting will be held on **17 and 18 September** at the Bizkaia Aretoa (University of the Basque Country) in



Bilbao. We encourage you to explore the initial information regarding Bilbao and look forward to welcoming you to this remarkable location

#### **Good to Know About Bilbao**

We are very delighted to welcome you to this year's conference in Bilbao and would like to give you a small foretaste of the city. Bilbao is a vibrant cultural and economic hub that has undergone an impressive transformation from an industrial centre to an international reference for urban regeneration and design. Situated in the heart of Bizkaia, the city combines world-renowned architecture (such as the Guggenheim Museum) with a rich local identity rooted in Basque language and traditions. Its riverside districts, green spaces, and lively gastronomic scene make it an inviting place to explore before and after the conference. Beyond the city limits, the wider Basque Country offers stunning coastal landscapes, innovative industry, and a unique blend of heritage and modernity. Further information: <https://www.visitbiscay.eus/en/home> . There is a wonderful photo from Bilbao attached which was taken by our network member Eugenia Atin from Prospektiker.

#### **New LinkedIn Group for the ENRLMM Community**

We are pleased to announce that the European Network on Regional Labour Market Monitoring (ENRLMM) has opened a **new** public LinkedIn group.

This transition will help us make our discussions more accessible and broaden our community by engaging researchers, practitioners, and stakeholders interested in labour market monitoring, foresight, and skills intelligence.

We warmly encourage you to join the space and to invite colleagues or partners who might benefit from the exchange of insights, news, and opportunities within our network.

Join the new ENRLMM LinkedIn group:

<https://www.linkedin.com/groups/16341021/>

#### **Join the AI Working Group**

The former Big Data Working Group of the ENRLMM has officially shifted its focus to Artificial Intelligence, reflecting current relevance while keeping continuity for existing members. The group will now



concentrate on developing practical and research-oriented tools, such as AI-based indicators and surveys, moving beyond seminar formats. ENRLMM members interested in participating or wishing to learn more are warmly invited to contact Eugenia Atin

(e.atin@prospektiker.es).

### **European Social Security Pass**

We received the following information from Ricardo Ferreira, Border Focal Point coordinator in DG REGIO:

The European Commission has launched a 12-week public consultation on the forthcoming proposal for a European Social Security Pass, which will be part of the Fair Labour Mobility package to be presented this year. The aim is to simplify how EU citizens moving to or working in other EU countries interact with relevant authorities or service providers in the context of social security. By enabling the secure and quick verification of social security rights and documents via a digital solution, it will reduce paperwork and the risk of errors and fraud.

The public consultation aims to gather insights and feedback on:

- the scale and nature of the problems;
- the objective of the proposed initiative;
- the policy options being considered;
- their potential impacts, including opportunities for simplification.

We encourage your participation in the consultation and kindly request that you share this information with other relevant stakeholders who may be interested in contributing their views. The public consultation is open until 16 April 2026 and can be accessed here:

[https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/have-your-say/initiatives/15912-European-Social-Security-Pass\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/have-your-say/initiatives/15912-European-Social-Security-Pass_en)[https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/have-your-say/initiatives/15912-European-Social-Security-Pass\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/have-your-say/initiatives/15912-European-Social-Security-Pass_en)>.

The call for evidence, which can be found at the same link, will run until 11 February 2026.

### **Dutch Best Practice for Regional Labour Market Information**

We received the following information from our network member Michel van Smoorenburg:



On November 4, 2025, the Public Employment Service of the Netherlands (UWV) published 35 regional editions of "Region in Focus" in a single day. Each regional publication consists of approximately 35 pages, outlining economic and demographic developments, among other things. It also includes information on vacancies, untapped supply, shortages by occupation, and - this time - a thematic chapter on learning and development. The final chapter consists of regionally tailored solutions for labour market mismatches.

These annual publications are not only published on UWV's labour market information portal, but are primarily important for informing and mobilizing regional stakeholders. This is often done by the 20 regional labour market advisors of UWV, who serve a total of 35 labour market regions. Twenty-two major regional events are already planned until December 2025, where regional policymakers and employers will discuss the findings. Sometimes there's a keynote speaker, which was the case on November 4th in Groningen, where Maarten Camps, Chairman of the Executive Board of UWV, fulfilled this role.

Significant attention is paid not only to the efficient and consistent production of labour market information, but also to its dissemination. In virtually every region, it's reported in the press and posted on social media. A simple and clear message is often essential for mass communication. Therefore, the UWV communications department supports this with a number of graphs and visualizations. A working group develops the format, and 20 regional labour market advisors write the final publications. Furthermore, many regional job counselors and the regional UWV management are involved in organizing the various events.

This is a best practice for efficiently producing and optimally disseminating regional labour market information, with the aim of making the (regional) labour market more transparent. Maybe a nice example for the members of the European Network on Regional Labour Market Monitoring.

For more information you could ask Michel van Smoorenburg ([Michel.vansmoorenburg@uwv.nl](mailto:Michel.vansmoorenburg@uwv.nl)) or follow [Michel on LinkedIn](#) with his regular posts (also sometimes in English).

#### Your requests

We have one further quick note: please remember that Jenny Kipper has moved on to a new role. We kindly ask that you no longer send



inquiries or requests for changes regarding the network to her. Please direct all network-related inquiries and comments directly to Christa, the current manager of the network, at [c.larsen@em.uni-frankfurt.de](mailto:c.larsen@em.uni-frankfurt.de).

Thank you for your interest in the latest news from the European Network on Regional Labour Market Monitoring and our member community.

With best regards,

Christa

#### References

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