European Network on Regional Labour Market Monitoring

Monitoring the Transformation of Occupations, Job Roles, and Skills:

Systematising Qualitative and Quantitative Approaches to the Observation of Changes in Regional and Local Labour Markets

21st Annual Meeting of the European Network on Regional Labour Market Monitoring (EN RLMM)

17. – 18. September 2026

Bilbao, Spain

Conference hosted by

Diputación Foral de Bizkaia (Provincial Council of Biscay) and Institute for Economics, Labour and Culture (IWAK) of Goethe University Frankfurt/Main
in Partnership with German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ) and OECD Local Employment and Economic Development Program (LEED)

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WELCOME BY DIPUTACIÓN FORAL DE BIZKAIA (HOST)

Dear colleagues, partners, and friends,

On behalf of the Provincial Council of Biscay (Diputación Foral de Bizkaia), it is a great pleasure to welcome you to Bilbao and to the European Network on Regional Labour Market Monitoring conference taking place on 17 and 18 September 2026. We are honoured to host this important meeting and to welcome participants from across Europe and beyond to our territory.

Bizkaia has a long-standing commitment to promoting quality employment, social cohesion, and sustainable economic development. This commitment is clearly reflected in our Territorial Employment Plan 2024–2029, conceived as a comprehensive transformation agenda for our employment system. The Plan is built on shared leadership with more than 70 actors from the labour market ecosystem (public administrations, companies, social partners, the third sector and training institutions) and is firmly aligned with the European Pillar of Social Rights, the Sustainable Development Goals and the Basque Employment Strategy.

In a context marked by profound technological, ecological, and social-demographic transitions, anticipating change has become a strategic necessity. Understanding how occupations, job roles, and skills are evolving at regional and local level is essential to design effective public policies, support companies, and accompany people through increasingly complex labour market transitions. For this reason, the focus of this year's conference, combining qualitative and quantitative approaches to labour market monitoring, is particularly relevant for Bizkaia.

Through the competencies assigned to us by the new Basque Employment Law, the Provincial Council plays a key role in supporting groups facing greater difficulties in the labour market and in steering transitions in strategic productive sectors.

Evidence-based labour market intelligence is a fundamental pillar of this work, helping us to move from monitoring to action and to place people at the centre of economic transformation.

We are confident that the discussions, experiences, and perspectives shared during these days will provide valuable insights and inspiration for all participants.
We wish you a stimulating and productive conference and hope you will also have the opportunity to enjoy our city and our territory.
Welcome to Bizkaia.

Yours sincerely,
Teresa Laespada Martínez
Second Deputy General and Provincial Deputy for Employment, Social Cohesion and Equality
Provincial Council of Biscay (Diputación Foral de Bizkaia)

WELCOME BY LANBIDE - BASQUE EMPLOYMENT SERVICE

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a pleasure to welcome you, on behalf of the Basque Country Government, to the 2026 conference of the European Network on Regional Labour Market Monitoring. We highly value the opportunity to be part of this European forum for dialogue, knowledge exchange, and cooperation on the future of labour markets.

The Basque Country is currently immersed in a period of deep transformation driven by digitalisation, the green transition, demographic change, and new productive models. These dynamics are reshaping occupations, redefining skills needs, and challenging existing systems of employment, training, and social protection. In this context, the ability to observe, understand, and anticipate change is essential for responsible and forward-looking public governance.

This vision is at the core of the Basque Employment Strategy 2030, recently updated in line with the new Employment Law. The Strategy reinforces our commitment to quality and stable employment, equal opportunities, lifelong learning, and social inclusion. It also establishes access to active labour market policies as a right of citizens and promotes a collaborative governance model through the Basque Employment Network, bringing together regional, provincial, and local actors.

The themes addressed in this conference, such as advanced labour market monitoring, the integration of qualitative and quantitative data, and the translation of evidence into policy, are fully aligned with our strategic priorities. Reliable and timely labour market intelligence is indispensable to guide skills development, support productive transformation, and ensure that no one is left behind during periods of rapid change.

We are particularly pleased that this conference brings together perspectives from European regions, international organisations, and research institutions.

Such diversity enriches the collective understanding of global challenges while allowing solutions to be grounded in regional realities.

I encourage all participants to actively engage in the discussions, to share experiences openly, and to forge new collaborations that will strengthen labour market policies across Europe and beyond. I wish you a successful conference and a fruitful stay in the Basque Country.

Yours sincerely,
Francisco Pedraza Moreno
General Director of Lanbide-Public Employment Service of the Basque Country
Basque Government

INFORMATION ON REGISTRATION

Registration

The conference will be held on **17 and 18 September 2026** hosted by the **Provincial Council of Biscay** (Diputación Foral de Bizkaia).

We ask you to register upfront until July 24, 2026 via: https://forms.office.com/e/FDE5f6avph

To fill out the **registration** you will need the following data:

- First name
- Last name
- Email
- Organisation
- Decision to participate in social events

The conference language is **English**. There will be simultaneous interpretation English- Spanish.

The participation is **free** of charge.

Please be aware that the time **settings of the programme are in the CET format.** You will receive the final version of the conference programme some time before the event.

We are looking forward to meeting you all in September!

THE EN RLMM

The European Network on Regional Labour Market Monitoring (EN RLMM) focuses on innovative approaches for the monitoring of labour markets in regions and localities across Europe.

Through various activities involving the publishing of Anthologies and organising meetings, it seeks to further the concepts and instruments in regional and local labour market monitoring and to diffuse the common methods for research and analysis in this field.

This year's conference will bring together representatives of regional labour market observatories, public authorities, research institutions, and international organisations to discuss innovative approaches to monitoring the transformation of occupations, job roles and skills at regional and local level.

If you have any questions concerning this year's conference, please contact:

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WELCOME TO BILBAO

The 2026 Annual Meeting of the European Network on Regional Labour Market Monitoring (EN RLMM) will be held in person in Bilbao. The conference is hosted by the **Provincial Council of Biscay (Diputación Foral de Bizkaia)** and organised in collaboration with the Coordination and Management of the EN RLMM at the Institute for Economics, Labour and Culture (IWAK) of Goethe University Frankfurt am Main, with the support of the OECD Local Employment and Economic Development (LEED) Programme and the German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ).

Conference Venue:
Bizkaia Aretoa
EHU – University of the Basque Country
Baroja Auditorium
Abandoibarra Etorbidea 3
48009 Bilbao - Spain (https://maps.app.goo.gl/fXSoTpz7FqEkNeyX8)

Wednesday, 16th September 2026

09:00 - 15:30

Conference on European Anticipation Policies in Employment by the Provincial Council of Biscay (open session)

ENRLMM members are warmly invited to extend their stay in Bilbao and join the Conference on European Anticipation Policies in Employment, which will take place the day prior to the ENRLMM Annual Meeting. This high-level conference will place a strong emphasis on the role of networks in anticipating labour market change and shaping forward-looking employment policies. English interpretation will be available and lunch is included.
Programme and registration here: https://forms.office.com/e/HWbkf4RN8g

16:00 - 18:00

Workshop with ASEAN Delegation (open session)

Venue: Bizkaia Aretoa, Arriaga meeting room - ENRLMM Members are welcome to join (https://maps.app.goo.gl/fXSoTpz7FqEkNeyX8)

19:30 - 21:30

Cocktail Dinner with Jazz at Yimby Bilbao
(https://maps.app.goo.gl/QUmhjJyUz1LRibGu5)

6

Thursday, 17th September 2026

Moderation: Christian Müller, SECO, Switzerland

Monitoring the Transformation of Occupations, Job Roles and Skills: Systematising Qualitative and Quantitative Approaches to the Observation of Changes in Regional and Local Labour Markets

8:30 - 9:00 Registration

9:00 - 9:40 **Welcome and Opening**

- Joxerramon Bengoetxea, Rector of the University of the Basque Country EHU
- Katarina Jaksic, Deputy Head of Unit Analysis and Statistics at DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion, European Commission
- Teresa Laespada Martínez, Provincial Minister for Employment, Social Cohesion and Equality

9:40 - 11:25 **Keynote Speakers:**
Strategic Alliances of International Organisations and the European Network on Regional Labour Market Monitoring

A series of keynote presentations from major European institutions:

- Cinzia del Rio, President of Section for Employment, Social Affairs and Citizenship of European Economic and Social Committee
- Pablo Sanchez Centellas, Local and Regional Government, Firefighters and Public Service Officers of the European Federation of Public Service Unions
- Pilvi Torsti, Director of the European Training Foundation (ETF)
- Tadas Leončikas, Head of Unit – Employment, Eurofound
- Marco Cantalupi, European Labour Authority (ELA)
- Csaba Borboly, European Committee of the Regions (CoR)

Moderation: Andrew Dean, Marchmont Observatory, University of Exeter

11:25 - 11:55 **Coffee Break**

11:55 **Introduction**

- Christa Larsen, Co-Ordinator European Network on Regional Labour Market Monitoring (EN RLMM)

7

Thursday, 17th September 2026

Moderation: Christian Müller, SECO, Switzerland

Impact of Artificial Intelligence on Occupations, Job Roles, and Skills

Introduction and Moderation
- Lukas Kleine-Rüschkamp, OECD LEED, Paris

Navigating the AI Landscape: How Artifical Intelligence Impacts Career Pathways and Skills Development in Singapore's Workforce
- Jo Fang Tai and Xiaowen Lin, Skills and Workforce Development Agency (SWDA), Singapore

The Speed of AI: Estimating the Exposure to AI of Job Demanded in the "Four Motors of Europe"
- Fabio Mercorio and Mario Mezzanzanica, Biccoca University Milano, Italy

The Speed of Skill Change: An Analysis of the Changing Skills Requirements within Jobs Using Online Job Posting Data
- Elena Magrini and Mauro Pelucchi, Lightcast, Italy

13:25 - 13:30 **Passing the Baton - Invitation to Annual Meeting 2027**

13:30- 14:40 **Lunch Break with Group Photo**

14:40 - 16:40 Topic-Related Parallel Sessions (choose A or B)

A. Drivers of Transformation and their Impact on Occupations, Skills, and Training

Introduction and Moderation
- Ewa Rollnik-Sadowska, Bialystok University of Technology, Poland

B. Optimising Governance Structures for Knowledge Generation and Evidence-Informed Policy Transfer

Introduction and Moderation
- Darjusch Tafreschi, GIZ Vietnam/ASEAN

Thursday, 17th September 2026

Moderation: Christian Müller, SECO, Switzerland

A.1. New Technologies and Occupational Change in Times of Economic and Geopolitical Instability: The Case of Poland

- Barbara Rychta and Anna Staszewska, Katowice Business University, Poland

A.2. Integration in Practice: Workforce Transformation through Evidence-Informed Interprofessional Education for Integrated Health and Social Care

- Aleksandra Webb, University of the West of Scotland, UK

B.1. Towards a Collaborative Governance: Transforming Public Governance in Skills Ecosystems: The Case of the KIBS Employment Forum in Bilbao

- Miren Estensoro, Orkestra-Basque Institute of Competitiveness and University of Deusto, Spain

B.2. Transferring Regional Labour Market Intelligence into Policy: Insights from Vocational Education and Training in Canton Ticino

- Emma Andrée Battaglia and Moreno Baruffini, Canton Ticino, Switzerland

B.3. Cooperation and Conflict. The Role of Private Providers of Employment Services

- Matthias Schulze-Boeing, Society for Economics, Labour and Culture (GEWAK), Frankfurt, Germany

16:40 - 17:00 **Plenary**
Highlights of the Parallel Sessions

17:00 **Summary of the Day**

18:00 **Boat Trip and Old-City Tour**

20:00 **Official Dinner at La Ribera Bilbao**
(https://maps.app.goo.gl/uRyG8ctWn6pXGPDdA)

Friday, 18th September 2026

Moderation: Aleksandra Webb, University of the West of Scotland, UK

Data for Measuring Effects of Transformation: Requirements, Integration of New Information Sources, and Implications for Research Designs

9:00 - 9:30 **Welcome**

- Giovanni Marcantonio, President Labour Market Observatory of the European Economic and Social Committee
- Lukas Kleine-Rüschkamp, OECD LEED, Paris
- Darjusch Tafreschi, GIZ Vietnam/ASEAN

9:30 - 10:00 **Prologue: Labour Market Monitoring in Times of Fundamental Disruptions**

Occupational and Skill Transformation under Compounded Crises: Evidence and Perspectives from Ukraine

- Mirela Gavoci and Iwona Ganko, European Training Foundation, Italy

10:00 - 10:20 **Employment Forecasting in the Artificial Intelligence Era**

- Daniel Parker, Oxford Economics, Cities & Regions Unit, UK

10:20 - 10:50 **Coffee Break**

Augmenting Traditional Forecasting Models with Qualitative Information and Qualitative Models

10:50 - 12:20 **Introduction and Moderation**

- Moreno Baruffini, Institute for Economic Research IRE, Università della Svizzera Italiana, Switzerland

Friday 18th September 2026

Moderation: Aleksandra Webb, University of the West of Scotland, UK

New Approach to Regional Labour Market Observation: Combining Qualitative Information and Quantitative Data on Changes in Occupations and Skills

- Christa Larsen, Institute for Economics, Labour and Culture (IWAK) of Goethe-University Frankfurt a. M., Germany

The Known Unknowns of Labour Market Intelligence: Reflections from South West England

- Gabrielle Climie and David Hancock, University of Exeter, United Kingdom

12:20 - 12:55 **Using Labour Market Intelligence to Improve VET for Vulnerable Groups: Practical Lessons from LMI4VET**

- Borja Pulido, Prospektiker - LKS Next, Spain
- Fernando Consuegra, Sartu, Spain

12:55 - 13:05 **Closing Address for the Plenary Session**

- Alfonso Gurpegui, Vice Minister for Employment and Inclusion of the Basque Government

13:05 - 14:05 **Lunch Break**

14:05 - 15:40 Topic-Related Parallel Sessions (choose A or B)

A. Integrating New Quantitative Datasets and Enhancing Accessibility for Target Groups

Introduction and Moderation

- Christian Müller, SECO, Switzerland

B. The Increasing Significance of Qualitative Information

Introduction and Moderation

- Aleksandra Webb, University of the West of Scotland, United Kingdom

11

Friday, 18 September 2026

Moderation: Aleksandra Webb, University of the West of Scotland, UK

A.1. Geography of Places into the Analysis of Local Labour Markets

- Francesca Parente, PES Labour Market Observatory, Lazio Region, Italy

A.2. Tracking Employment Transitions to Understand Local Labour Market Changes and Dynamics: Evidence from the Veneto Region

- Francesca Nadalin and Ilaria Rocco, Regional Observatory on the Labour Market – Veneto Lavoro, Italy

B.1. Qualitative Competence Intelligence for Monitoring Innovation Driven Change in Smart Specialisation Sectors: Evidence from Regional Labour Market

- Ewa Rollnik-Sadowska, Bialystok University of Technology, Poland

B.2. Quality of Life, Youth, and New Expectations in Italy

- Renato Fontana and Ernesto Calò, Sapienza University, Italy

15:40 - 15:50 **Plenary**
Highlights of the Parallel Sessions

15:50 - 16:00 **Report from AI-Working Group**
- Eugenia Atin, Prospektiker - LKS Next, Spain

16:00 - 16:10 **Looking Back**
- Marco Ricceri, Chair of the Scientific Committee and Christa Larsen, Co-Ordinator of the European Network on Regional Labour Market Monitoring

16:10 - 16:50 **Scientific Committee** of the European Network on Regional Labour Market Monitoring (closed session)

16:50 - 17:30 **AI Working Group** (closed session)

17:45 **Visit to the Guggenheim Museum**

20:00 **Good – Bye Dinner Café Iruña**
At own costs, fixed menu of approx. 33 euros (https://maps.app.goo.gl/aiR127qqo2WWeLRc8)

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The Annual Meeting of the EN RLMM will take place with the kind support of:

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