



EN RLMM Anthology 2016

Digital Revolution and its Effects on Labour: Opportunities and Challenges for Regional and Local Labour Market Monitoring

CALL FOR PAPERS

In politics and science, digital revolution is discussed as the fourth industrial revolution and is often equated with Industry 4.0. In doing so, it is often not recognised that informatisation/digitalisation have already found their way into the world of work a long time ago and that this process follows an evolutionary course. In this year's Anthology, we would like to approach the topic from two angles:

- Which insights have arisen from applied labour market research so far and which societal challenges have been identified?
- How can changes in the world of work be described and analysed in monitoring – with a particular focus on practice-related models of forecasts and foresights?

Whilst the first approach is more related to research results, the second one addresses the experiences of the Network Members.

1. Insights Arising from Applied Labour Market Research

In relevant professional discussions, it is assumed that digitalisation leads to a polarisation between different qualification levels. It is argued that the working force with lower qualifications are devalued (e.g. in relation to income) and experience higher risks of losing their jobs. However, there is another line of argument stating that digitalisation leads to an upgrading of all employees, since they can upgrade their existing competencies or acquire new ones. Furthermore, it is postulated that in many areas of employment, service orientation and communication are becoming ever more important, since even in the production sector the end products have to be sold as service packages. Here, we are looking for contributions which outline these developments in different sectors, professions and regions. Also models analysing or simulating such developments can be presented. The influence of specific national, regional or local conditions is of particular interest here.

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In a second field, we focus on Labour 4.0 and its consequences for the working conditions and workplace security. Besides the general lines of developments we are looking to learn more about new employment relationships and forms, which are made possible through ICT-based mobile work. Portfolio working, crowd working, co-working, co-operations and employee sharing serve as examples here. Besides the general consequences of Labour 4.0 it should be discussed, which relevance these forms of employment have and which employment conditions arise from the legal and financial terms of reference, workplace security and health protection, but also how work and family life can be reconciled and how different career paths are formed under these conditions.

2. Data and Information for Describing and Analysing the Changed World of Work in Monitoring

How can the changes in the world of work briefly outlined above be described and analysed in regional or local labour market monitoring? Which sources of data and information could be used for that? Which role do in particular expert data play and with which methods could they be generated? These are the questions we would like you to address in your contributions.

Moreover, in many regional and local labour market observatories the practically oriented forecasting is a highly relevant field of activity. Against this background, we would like to gain further insights into the different ways for depicting the changes in the world of work arising from digitalisation in forecasting models and foresight scenarios. We are looking forward to receiving contributions which reflect on the experiences or make suggestions for further work in this field.

If you would like to submit an article to this year's EN RLMM anthology, please send the Network Manager Sigrid Rand the preliminary title of the contribution and a short abstract by **31 January 2016** (s.rand@em.uni-frankfurt.de). All authors will receive further information concerning the formatting in due course. The articles should be submitted latest by **30 April 2015**. If you have any further questions, please contact Christa Larsen: c.larsen@em.uni-frankfurt.de.