



*European Network on Regional Labour Market Monitoring*

## 15th Annual Meeting of the European Network on Regional Labour Market Monitoring (EN RLMM)

**The Importance of SMEs as Innovators of Sustainable  
Inclusive Employment in Times of Pandemic and Beyond.  
New Evidence from Regional and Local Labour Markets**

**17-18 September 2020**

**Virtual Conference hosted by EURISPES Rome, Italy  
and  
IWAK of the GOETHE University Frankfurt am Main, Germany**



Dal 1982  
l'Istituto di Ricerca  
degli italiani



**IWAK**

Institut für Wirtschaft, Arbeit und Kultur  
Zentrum der Goethe-Universität  
Frankfurt am Main



Dear Colleagues and supporters of the EN RLMM,

Our network has been in existence for 15 years now. In this period, it has contributed a great deal to raise awareness and initiate action on the importance of regional and local labour market monitoring for the functioning of labour markets and for supporting economies. One of the characteristics that sets the Network apart is that through its members, it is now active in over 40 countries. Our members are engaged, directly and locally, with regional and local decision makers to develop and implement customized approaches to monitoring, fitted for regional and, often even, local conditions. Through the Network, these Bottom-Up approaches are bundled together and, through this overview, several impulses and concepts for further development are provided for other Regions and Localities. The Network survives as a non-profit organisation exclusively through the commitment and engagement of its members. Fifteen years existence clearly demonstrates the significant political and economic meaning of the field of regional and local labour market monitoring.

We are confident that we can continue to develop the concept and practise of regional and local labour market monitoring in good and constructive cooperation over the next 15 years.



**Dr Christa Larsen,**  
Coordinator of the EN RLMM



**Professor Marco Ricceri,**  
Head of the Scientific Committee

## Information on registration & virtual setting

Due to the Corona Pandemic in 2020 this conference will be held virtually as this offers different possibilities than a conference in presence. We ask you to register upfront until the **13<sup>th</sup> September**.

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

- E-mail
- Name
- Surname
- Title
- Organisation

During the registration you can also choose between different Working Groups for both days. Please note that only one selection per day is possible. For further information on the workshops please see the pages 12-13 and 16-17. You will get a confirmation after the registration.

**For registration please use the link in the e-mail.**

You will get information on the tool for the virtual conference after the registration. We will support you with the technology one day before the conference. You will receive the final version of the conference program some time before. If you have any questions please contact **Dr Ludovico Semerari (Phone: +39 3383218687; e-mail: ludovicosemerari@hotmail.it)** or **Dr Jenny Kipper (Phone +49 6101 5028708; e-mail: info@drkipper.de)**.

We are looking forward to meet you all in September!

**The conference language is English.**  
**The participation is free of charge.**

## History of the European Network on Regional Labour Market Monitoring

'06

**Frankfurt a.M., Germany** - Regional Labour Market Monitoring. Concepts and Practices in Regions across Europe

**Rome, Italy** - Regional Forecasting of Labour Markets. Models applied across Europe

'07

'08

**Dublin, Ireland** - Target Group Monitoring in European Regions. Empirical Findings and Conceptual Approaches

**Copenhagen, Denmark** - Information Systems for Regional Labour Market Monitoring. State of the Art and Perspectives

'09

'10

**Marseille, France** - Reduction of Youth Unemployment Through Regional Labour Market Monitoring

**Luxembourg** - Measuring Geographical Mobility in Regional Labour Market Monitoring Approaches

'11

'12

**Cracow, Poland** - Skills Monitoring in European Regions and Localities

**Bilbao, Spain** - Shifting Roles of Regional and Local Labour Market Observatories Across Europe?

'13

'14

**Frankfurt a.M., Germany** - Sustainable Economy and Sustainable Employment: Approaches to Measuring Sustainability in Regional and Local Labour Market Monitoring

'15

**Milan, Italy** - Big Data and the Complexity of Labour Market Policies: New Approaches in Regional and Local Labour Market Monitoring for Reducing Skills Mismatches

'16

**Rovaniemi, Finland** - Digital (R)evolution and Its Effects on Labour: Opportunities and Challenges for Regional and Local Labour Market Monitoring

'17

**Tirana, Albania** - The Importance of Governance in Regional Labour Market Monitoring for Evidence-based Policy-making/Regional Labour Market Monitoring in Developing and Emerging Countries

'18

**Exeter, UK** - Developing Skills in a Changing World of Work: Concepts, Measurement and Data Applied in Regional and Local Labour Market Monitoring Across Europe

'19

**Moscow, Russia** - Assessing Informal Employment and Skills Needs: Approaches and Insights from Regional and Local Labour Market Monitoring

'20

**Virtual Meeting** - The Importance of SMEs as Innovators of Sustainable Inclusive Employment in Times of Pandemic and Beyond. New Evidence from Regional and Local Labour Markets

## Scientific Committee

### HEAD

Professor Marco Ricceri, *EURISPES (Italy)*

### VICE HEADS

Professor Ronald Mc Quaid, *University of Stirling's Management School (United Kingdom)*

Dr Andrew Dean, *University of Exeter (United Kingdom)*

### MEMBERS

Professor Mario Mezzanzanica, *University of Milano-Bicocca (Italy)*

Professor Alfons Schmid, *Society for Economics, Labour and Culture (GEWAK)/Institute for Economics, Labour and Culture (IWAK), Centre of Goethe University Frankfurt am Main (Germany)*

Aline Valette, *Céreq (France)*

Professor Jan Brzozowski, *Cracow University of Economics (Poland)*

Dr Franz Clement, *Luxembourg Institute of Socio-Economic Research (Luxembourg)*

Professor Renato Fontana, *Sapienza - University of Rome (Italy)*

Professor Vyacheslav Bobkov, *Russian Academy of Science Moscow, (Russia)*

Professor Cyprian Panzaru, *West University of Timisoara (Romania)*

Dr Christa Larsen, *Institute for Economics, Labour and Culture (IWAK), Centre of Goethe University Frankfurt am Main (Germany)*



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.

2009\_Copenhagen\_Denmark  
2017\_Tirana\_Albania 2016\_Rovaniemi\_Finland  
2018\_Exeter\_United\_Kingdom  
2019\_Moscow\_Russia 2012\_Cracow\_Poland  
2014\_Frankfurt\_Germany 2011\_Luxembourg  
2007\_Rome\_Italy  
2015\_Milan\_Italy 2008\_Dublin\_Ireland  
2010\_Alexisville\_France  
2006\_Frankfurt\_Germany  
2013\_Bilbao\_Spain

In 2020, the Annual Meeting of the EN RLMM will be the first one that will take place virtually. It will be organised jointly by EURIPSES in Rome, Italy and the Co-ordination/Management of the EN RLMM at IWAK from the Goethe-University of Frankfurt am Main, Germany.

### Big Data Working Group

Big Data, especially from the internet, as a source for data provision in regional and local labour market monitoring, is of growing importance.

The Big Data Working Group is preparing a Big Data Knowledge Hub to support network members in applying big data by providing information and practices on methods, quality criteria, areas of application and data sets.

A prototype of the Knowledge Hub will be presented on the European Day, the second day of our meeting (18th September 2020).



**The Importance of SMEs as Innovators of Sustainable Inclusive Employment in Times of Pandemic and Beyond.**  
New Evidence from Regional and Local Labour Markets

The virtual Conference of the EN RLMM will have two parts:

**Annual Meeting (17th September 2020)**

The topic of EN RLMM in 2020 is related to the innovative potentials of SMEs in *securing employment* in regions and localities and their impulses for the transformation of economy. There will be a special focus on the *mechanisms of SMEs* in handling the pandemic.

In our discussions we will learn about *innovative approaches* to human resource management and training in SMEs and to the gains of their integration into local and regional support structures and policy frameworks. Our special interest is related to understanding the mechanisms to withstand the pandemic and support the transformation of the economy.

**European Day (18th September 2020)**

Traditionally we focus at the European Day on the practices of the regional and local labour market observatories. As the observatories are of major importance for the provision of transparency in regions and localities during the *pandemic and beyond*, we will discuss in how far they can support evidence-based policy making and how the EN RLMM can support their practices.

**16 September 2020**  
**PREPARATION**

13:30-15:00  
**DIGITAL CHECK IN**

For all conference participants to check the functionality of the technology.

15:00-17:00  
**BIG DATA WORKING GROUP**

## 17 September 2020 ANNUAL MEETING

13:00-14:00

Check in, informal welcome, lunch

14:00-14:30

### **WELCOMING ADDRESSES**

Senator Stanislao Di Piazza, State Secretary, Ministry of Labor and Social Policies (Italy)

Gian Maria Fara, President, EURISPES (Italy)

14:30-15:20

### **INTRODUCTION TO THE ANNUAL TOPIC**

#### **Insights from the EN RLMM Anthology 2020**

Dr Christa Larsen, IWAK/Centre of Goethe University Frankfurt (Germany)

Professor Ronald W. McQuaid, University of Stirling's Management School (United Kingdom)

Dr Aleksandra Webb, University of Stirling's Management School (United Kingdom)

15:20-15:35

Break, informal coffee

15:35-17:15

### **WORKING GROUPS**

#### **The Innovative Potentials of SMEs in the Context of the Pandemic and the Sustainable Transformation of the Economy**

**WG 1:** Success Factors of SMEs - Structures, Processes and Cultures

**WG 2:** Relevance of VET and Employability for Innovation - Forms and Applications

**WG 3:** Supporting the transformation of SMEs by Digitalization - Chances and Challenges

**WG 4:** Fostering the transformation of SMEs by local/regional Policy Frameworks and Support Structures - Chances and Challenges

17:15-17:30

Break, informal coffee

17:30-18:15

### **PLENARY SESSION**

#### **Results from the Working Groups and Discussion**

**Moderation:** Professor Jan Brzozowski, Cracow University of Economics (Poland)

18:15-18:30

### **IN MEMORY**

#### **The Scientific Work and Life of Professor Patrizio di Nicola**

Professor Renato Fontana, Sapienza – University of Rome (Italy)

20:00-22:00

### **EVENING EVENT**

Happy Birthday: 15 years European Network on Regional Labour Market Monitoring

Surprise

Informal Get Together

## Overview of the Working Groups on 17 September 2020

### Working Group 1

#### Success Factors of SMEs – Structures, Processes, and Cultures

##### Moderators/Presenters:

*Professor Mattia Martini, University of Milano-Bicocca (Italy)*

*Dr Moreno Baruffini, Università della Svizzera italiana, USI (Switzerland)*

The discussion of the working group deals with the core question, which structures, processes, and, above all, the company cultures contribute to SMEs being able to secure employment during and after the pandemic and what this means for regional and local labour market monitoring.

### Working Group 2

#### Relevance of VET and Employability for Innovation in SMEs - Forms and Applications

##### Moderators/Presenters:

*Dr Aline Valette-Wursthén, Céreq (France)*

*Piirita Vuorinen, ETF—European Training Foundation (Italy)*

How do qualifications and the security of employability in SMEs take place? The working group discusses environmental and operational factors as well as implications for the further development of the VET division and the consideration of these subject areas in regional and local labour market monitoring.

### Working Group 3

#### Supporting the transformation of SMEs by Digitalisation - Chances and Challenges

##### Moderators/Presenters:

*Professor Ciprian Panzaru, West University of Timisoara (Romania)*

*Professor Mario Mezzanzanica, University of Milano-Bicocca (Italy)*

Digitisation is less advanced in SMEs than in large companies. It is to be discussed which factors and strategies can support further digitisation and how the experience of the pandemic can be useful for the digitisation.

### Working Group 4

#### Fostering the Transformation of SMEs by Local/Regional Policy Frameworks and Support Structures - Chances and Challenges

##### Moderators/Presenters:

*Dr Andrew Dean, University of Exeter (United Kingdom)*

*Daniel Porep, Economic Development Agency Brandenburg (Germany)*

With often limited resources, SMEs can be very dependent on stimuli and interventions from local and regional support structures. This virtual Working Group will discuss the type(s) of support that are particularly relevant to promoting the innovation potential of SMEs and how the necessary regional and local policy frameworks and structures can be built.

18 September 2020  
EUROPEAN DAY

9:00-9:15

Informal coffee,

09:15-09:30

**LESSONS LEARNED**

**An Alternative Framework for the Transformation of the Economy**

Professor Renato Fontana, Sapienza – University of Rome (Italy)

09:30-09:40

**OPENING WORDS**

**The Initiative of Networking Regional and Local Labour Market Observatories across Europe**

Dr Christa Larsen, IWAK/Centre of Goethe University Frankfurt (Germany)

09:40-10:00

**INTRODUCTION TO THE EUROPEAN DAY**

**The Role of Labour Market Observatories in Times of Pandemic – Transparency, Monitoring, Supporting**

Cristina Mereuta, European Training Foundation (Italy)

10:00-11:30

**WORKING GROUPS**

**Preconditions and Functions of Regional and Local Labour Market Observatories across Europe during Pandemic and Beyond**

**WG 1:** Practices of Regional and Local Labour Market Observatories in times of pandemic—Need for provision of real time information and accessing new user groups?

**WG 2:** The Relevance of Observatories in evidence based policy making in local and regional support for Economic Transformation — Current Successful Approaches and Prospective Steps.

**WG 3:** Building a support structure for (geographical isolated) Observatories by the EN RLMM— Needs and Strategies.

11:30 -12:15

**PLENARY SESSION**

**Results from the Working Groups and Discussion**

**Moderation:** Christian Müller, State Secretariat for Economic Affairs SECO (Switzerland)

12:15-12:30

Break, informal coffee

12:30-12:45

**INVITATION TO THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE EN RLMM: Timisoara 2021**

Professor Ciprian Panzaru, West University of Timisoara (Romania)

12:45-13:10

**REPORT OF THE BIG DATA WORKING GROUP**

Speaker of the Group: Eugenia Atin, Prospektiker (Spain)

13:10-13:20

**CLOSING WORDS**

Professor Marco Ricceri, EURISPES (Italy)

13:20-14:20

Check out, informal good bye, lunch

15:00-17:00

**SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE**



## Overview of the Working Groups on 18 September 2020

### Working Group 1

**Practices of Regional and Local Labour Market Observatories in times of pandemic—Need for provision of real time information and accessing new user groups?**

#### Moderators/Presenters:

*Claudia Plaimauer, 3s Consulting (Austria)*

*Michel von Smoorenburg, UWV — Public Employment Services (Netherlands)*

The following questions will be discussed: How can observatories provide real time information to monitor the impact of the pandemic on regional and local labour markets? Are new user groups needed, which are necessary for the transformation process and which should receive the information from the observatories?

### Working Group 2

**The Relevance of Observatories in evidence based policy making in local and regional support for Economic Transformation — Current Successful Approaches and Prospective Steps.**

#### Moderators/Presenters:

*Professor Ronald W. McQuaid, University of Stirling's Management School (United Kingdom)*

*Professor Vyacheslav Bobkov, Russian Academy of Science Moscow, (Russia)*

The discussion will revolve around the following topics: How can policy makers and other key decision-makers in the regional and local labour markets better recognise that the observatories can provide them with constant transparency on developments? Which strategies are expedient here to optimise the interface between observatories and policy makers? Framework conditions at higher levels can also be considered relevant.

### Working Group 3

**Building a support structure for (geographical isolated) Observatories by the EN RLMM— Needs and Strategies.**

#### Moderators/Presenters:

*Nina Oding, Leontief Center St Peterburg (Russia)*

*Marta Sosnowska, Voivodeship Labour Office in Bialystok (Poland)*

Many observatories are still very isolated, especially in countries without a systematic and nationwide structure. Therefore, it will be discussed how our network can support these observatories so that they play an important role in the pandemic and economic transformation. Against this background, how can the Initiative of our network for networking regional and local labour market observatories across Europe be further developed?



**Dr Christa Larsen:** Co-ordinator of the EN RLMM, Managing Director of IWAK

**Institute for Economics, Labour and Culture (IWAK)**

**Centre of Goethe University Frankfurt**

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



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l'Istituto di Ricerca  
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Zentrum der Goethe-Universität  
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