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**From the Editors:**

Welcome to the second SkilMeet newsletter! Our researchers have been working hard over the past months and continue to explore skill shortages and gaps, draft papers and prepare events.

In this edition, we highlight the inauguration of our External Advisory Board. This panel of experts will help steer our research on skill mismatches, gaps, and labour shortages across Europe.

We're also gearing up for our first events, including a roundtable discussion on skills and labour shortages in Europe where we will discuss the latest insights and findings with policymakers and key stakeholders.

Over the past few months our team has been actively engaging with the research community. We participated in the Skills Horizon Event, where we presented SkilMeet's research agenda, mission, and goals. Additionally, our researchers presented their work at various conferences and workshops, exploring how the green transition, AI, and digitalisation are reshaping labour markets.

For more updates on our project, including events and opportunities to engage with us, please visit our website at [www.skilmeet.eu](http://www.skilmeet.eu), and follow us on LinkedIn and x.com.

Happy reading!  
The editors

**Upcoming event:**

**2 October, Brussels** - "Skills and Labour Shortages in Europe: Recent Research Evidence" - SkilMeet Roundtable



Project SkilMeet will host a roundtable discussion on 2 October 2024 to explore recent research findings on shortages of skills and labour in Europe.

The event aims to present findings that can guide the development of evidence-based policies while exploring the knowledge needs and expectations of trade unions and employer organisations. SkilMeet researchers Dr Piotr Lewandowski (IBS) and Prof. Christina Gathmann (LISER) will discuss the extent of skills and labour shortages across Europe. After their presentations, Prof. Vassil Kirov (IPA-BAS) will lead a discussion centred on the knowledge needs of European social partners. The insights from this debate will inform SkilMeet's efforts to better address stakeholder needs and shape effective policy recommendations.

The roundtable, "Skills and Labour Shortages in Europe: Recent Research Evidence", will take place from 1:00 to 4:30 p.m. at the European Trade Union Institute (ETUI) in Brussels.



**SkilMeet welcomes experts to its External Advisory Board**

Project SkilMeet is pleased to announce the inauguration of its External Advisory Board, bringing together leading experts in labour markets, skills development, and technology. This team of experienced researchers will provide guidance and support to the project, helping conduct and disseminate research on skill mismatches, skill gaps, and labour shortages stemming from Europe's green and digital transition.

SkilMeet External Advisory Board Members:

- **Michael Handel**, Professor Emeritus of Sociology at Northeastern University, specialises in labour markets, skills mismatches, automation, and task analysis.
- **Salih Tutun**, faculty member at Olin Business School, Washington University in St. Louis, is an expert in information technology, focusing on deep learning, reinforcement learning, and explainable AI. His work explores how human behaviour and social interactions shape critical business decisions.
- **Uschi Backes-Gellner**, Professor of Business Economics at the University of Zurich, researches personnel economics, education, and innovation.
- **Gienda Quintini**, Senior Economist at the OECD, leads the Employment, Labour and Social Affairs Directorate. She heads a team of economists analysing changing skill demands in the labour market and developing effective policy responses, particularly in adult learning and on-the-job training.
- **Wouter Zwijnen**, Senior Researcher at the European Trade Union Institute, conducts research on labour market inequalities, wage disparities, and the integration of migrants and minorities. His work also examines job quality and its drivers.



**SkilMeet presents its research goals at Skills Horizon event**

Ludvine Martin, a SkilMeet researcher from the Luxembourg Institute of Socio-Economic Research (LISER), discussed the goals and ambitions of our research project during the Skills Horizon online meetup. The event brought together researchers studying solutions to address skill shortages and promote skills development in the EU through projects funded by the Horizon Europe Programme.

Skills Horizon, organised on 8 May 2024 by three research consortia—iRead4Skills, MEGASKILLS, and Skills2Capabilities—aimed to facilitate collaboration between projects and experts, helping them address the evolving needs of Europe's labour market through skill development and capacity building.

"It was a great opportunity to learn about the research agendas of other projects and explore potential opportunities for collaboration," says Ludvine Martin. "We are in close contact with the projects from our call, and this event helps us connect with consortia that study skills from different angles."

During the event, several projects presented their goals and results: [Link4Skills](#), [SKILLAB](#), [SKILLS4JUSTICE](#), [TECHNEQUALITY](#), [TRAILS](#), [iRead4Skills](#), [MEGASKILLS](#), [Skills2Capabilities](#), [GSSS](#), [CLEAB](#), and [YOUNG ADULTS](#).

**SkilMeet researchers at events:**



**Francesco Vona discusses the carbon content of jobs at Brussels workshop**

Francesco Vona, a SkilMeet researcher and the Director of Fondazione Eni Enrico Mattei (FEEM), addressed the labour market implications of climate policies and presented a new method for evaluating the carbon content of jobs at the workshop "The Employment Dimension of the Green Economy" in Brussels on September 18.

In his presentation, "Climate Policies and the Carbon Content of Jobs," Vona showed the results of research conducted in collaboration with Giovanni Marin, an economist "vulnerable to climate policies. Using data from France, they constructed an occupation-based index of the carbon content of 400 jobs between 2003 and 2018. Their findings indicate that carbon-intensive jobs gradually reduce their emissions per worker, are geographically concentrated, and are significantly affected by changes in automation and trade.

The researchers also found that energy prices, which reflect climate policies, have a more significant impact on wages and employment in carbon-intensive jobs. Vona argued that assessing job vulnerability based on specific occupations provides clearer and more precise insights into the impact of climate policies than a sector-based approach.

The event was organised by the Joint Research Centre and the Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs, and Inclusion, and focused on the employment challenges and opportunities posed by Europe's transition to a green economy.



**Ronald Bachmann speaks about AI and the labour market at Essen Science Summer**

Ronald Bachmann (RWI - Leibniz Institute for Economic Research), SkilMeet scientific coordinator and professor of Labour economics at Heinrich-Heine-Universität Düsseldorf, discussed the impact of AI on the labour market during the 6th Essen Science Summer.

The event, "Future of Work", organised at the University of Duisburg-Essen (UDE) on 7 June, 2024 gathered about 70 participants from academia and industry to discuss how digitalisation, new technologies, and artificial intelligence are transforming our professional lives.

Ronald Bachmann's presentation, "Will ChatGPT & Co. Take Our Jobs? Insights from Economics", focused on how generative AI can change the way we work.

Other speakers included Barbara Albert (UDE), Michael Friede (FOM University of Applied Sciences), Bettar O. el Moctar (UDE), Meike Lenz (DGE Open Group Europe), and Sebastian Korstik (Stadtwerke Essen).



**Piotr Lewandowski presents AI solutions for Poland's worker shortage at Impact24 conference**

Piotr Lewandowski, a SkilMeet researcher and the president of the Institute for Structural Research (IBS), addressed Poland's looming shortage of skilled workers and the potential of AI and ICT technologies to mitigate it, during the Impact24 conference in Poznań on May 15, 2024.

Speaking to Poland's corporate leaders at one of the country's largest business events, Lewandowski warned that demographic trends could leave the Polish economy with a deficit of 500,000 specialists by 2040. He highlighted the crucial role of AI and ICT in alleviating this shortage but cautioned that Poland must first invest in upgrading its workforce's digital skills.

Lewandowski explained that although the country boasts a highly educated labour force, it lags behind Western Europe in digital proficiency.

"Our policies currently focus on the unemployed, but their numbers are relatively low. Instead, we should prioritise creating opportunities for adults to upgrade their skills and qualifications," Lewandowski emphasised.

Lewandowski proposed three key policy initiatives to foster lifelong learning: grants for on-the-job training, Individual Learning Accounts, and training/leave programmes.



**Ronald Bachmann discusses how climate crisis impacts skills at KlimaDiskurs./JUGEND**

Ronald Bachmann of the RWI - Leibniz Institute for Economic Research, SkilMeet scientific coordinator and professor of labour economics at Heinrich-Heine-Universität Düsseldorf, talked about the impact of climate change on the job market during the event "Climate Crisis and Work: Opportunities and Challenges for Young People."

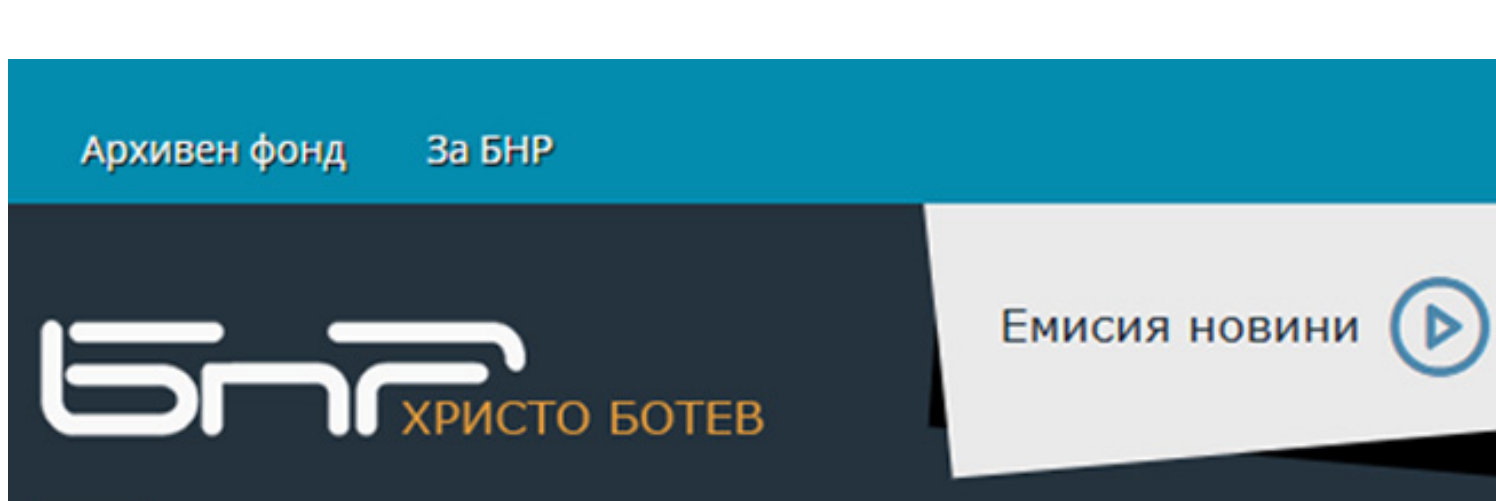
Held at the Jahrhunderthaus in Bochum on 2 July, the event brought together more than 40 young participants who explored how the climate crisis is transforming careers and discussed the need to reshape the job market while protecting our planet.

The meeting was organised by the Evangelische Akademie Villigst and KlimaDiskurs. NRW, an NGO that supports policies aimed at sustainable development.

Other speakers included Deputy Minister-President of North Rhine-Westphalia Mona Neubaur, Dr Carmen Ostwald (thyssenkrupp Steel Europe AG), and Andreas Jansen (DGB Youth NRW).

For more details see [here](https://www.klima-diskurs.de/).

**SkilMeet researchers in the media:**



**Vassil Kirov talks about skills and labour shortages on Bulgarian National Radio**

SkilMeet researcher Vassil Kirov, a professor from the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, was interviewed by Bulgarian National Radio. He stressed that the main problem for the European labour market is not the technology-driven destruction of jobs but the shortage of skills and labour.

Vassil Kirov said that contrary to earlier predictions that computers would render half of jobs obsolete within a couple of decades, Europe is now witnessing high employment, with a shift towards new professions, rather than massive unemployment.

He also shed light on the disappearance of traditional roles alongside the emergence of innovative professions within the online sphere. This means workers must equip themselves with additional skills through education and training to succeed in a rapidly changing job market fuelled by technological advances. The integration of technology optimises repetitive tasks, signalling a shift towards more sophisticated and creative job roles.

<https://bnr.bg/hrisotobotev/102004693/kibesiiparomotta-i-valshelbilitie-prikaiki>

**SKILLS FOR LABOUR MARKETS IN THE DIGITAL AND GREEN TRANSITION**

SkilMeet is a research project carried out by eight research institutions, exploring how digital and green transformation of European economies are changing the demand for skills. We analyse the scope of skills shortages and mismatches, identify their drivers and propose innovative ways to reduce skills gaps.

**PARTNERS:**



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