



NEWSLETTER #5

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From the Editors:

With the new academic year just around the corner, SkiLMeeT is entering the next phase of its journey. Right now we are working hard to prepare for our Midterm Conference in Sofia on 2-3 October 2025. We are finalising the details, making sure everything runs smoothly, and setting the stage for insightful conversations. The highlight of the event will be a keynote by Matias Cortes (York University, Toronto), alongside a series of sessions exploring how the green and digital transitions are transforming skills, jobs, and policies across Europe.

The past few months have also been rich with ideas and debate. In May, Anton Korinek (University of Virginia) joined our webinar series to discuss the disruptive potential of Artificial General Intelligence and the urgent need for policy reflection. Shortly after that, Ulrich Zierahn-Weilage (Utrecht University) presented new evidence on how digitalisation is reshaping vocational training in Germany. In June, our stakeholder webinar led by Vassil Kirov (IPS-BAS) brought together employers, trade unions, and practitioners to discuss how the twin transitions are already transforming skill needs across Europe.

Beyond our own events, SkiLMeeT researchers have been active in wider debates. From the SkillsPULSE seminar in Łódź, where we explored big data insights on skills shortages and transitions, to policy discussions in Berlin and Brussels, our work continues to feed into broader conversations on the future of work and the policies needed to support it.

We look forward to sharing the outcomes of the Midterm Conference in our next edition. Until then, you can keep up with our research, events, and findings at www.skilmeet.eu, as well as on [LinkedIn](#) and [Bluesky](#).

– The Editors

Upcoming event:

2-3 October - SkiLMeeT Conference: “Workers, Firms, and Skills in the Digital and Green Transition”

SkiLMeeT Events:



Discover the programme of the SkiLMeeT Midterm Conference

The preliminary programme for the SkiLMeeT Midterm Conference, “Skills for Labour Markets in the Green and Digital Transition”, is now available. Held in Sofia on 2-3 October 2025, the conference will bring together researchers and policymakers to explore how skills, technology, and policy are shaping labour market transformations.

The event will open with a keynote address from Matias Cortes (York University, Toronto) and will also feature policy keynotes by Simone Rosini (DG EMP) and Mariya Mincheva (Bulgarian Industrial Association). Across two days, participants will engage in thematic sessions, including:

- Skills in the green transition
- Educational and occupational choice
- Worker mobility
- Green jobs
- Firms
- Job quality
- Artificial intelligence
- Workers coping with technology
- Skills and competences

Learn more about our conference here: <https://skilmeet.eu/our-2025-conference/>

Past SkiLMeeT Events:



SkiLMeeT webinar explores AGI's potential to revolutionise economy

A recent SkiLMeeT research webinar featured a thought-provoking presentation by Anton Korinek, Professor at the University of Virginia and fellow at the Brookings Institution, who explored the economic disruptions that Artificial General Intelligence (AGI) could unleash. Korinek warned that this technology could fundamentally alter how societies work, educate, and distribute income.

Held on 12 May 2025, the event drew 38 participants and sparked discussion about the need for rapid policy adaptation in the face of advancing AI capabilities.

Korinek argues that AGI – defined as AI capable of outperforming humans in all intellectual tasks – could eventually replicate nearly all forms of labour, rendering human work nonessential in most economic domains. This would eliminate labour scarcity, drive down wages, and concentrate economic returns in the hands of capital owners, deepening inequality.

While AGI is not yet a reality, Korinek pointed to early signs of disruption caused by Large Language Models (LLMs): declining demand for software developers and rising graduate unemployment. He anticipates that even in an AGI-dominated future, certain roles – such as caregiving, artistic work, and AI oversight – may persist due to their reliance on human connection, cultural relevance, or trust. However, these will likely represent a shrinking share of total employment.

Education systems, Korinek warned, must radically adjust. As AGI surpasses human experts in cognitive tasks, the economic return on traditional degrees could collapse. Academic institutions will need to redefine their roles in a world where machines outperform in knowledge production and problem-solving.

To counteract the growing concentration of wealth and opportunity, Korinek advocates for new income distribution mechanisms, including Universal Basic Income. He stressed that global disparities will intensify unless proactive policies are adopted to ensure inclusive prosperity.

Whether AGI arrives within a few years or decades, Korinek urged immediate action.



SkiLMeeT webinar explores how digitalisation reshapes vocational training and worker outcomes

At a seminar organised by SkiLMeeT and LISER, our researcher Ulrich Zierahn-Weilage of Utrecht University presented new insights into how digital technologies are transforming vocational training systems and impacting labour market outcomes across Germany.

The hybrid event, held on 13 May 2025 and attended by 35 participants, featured findings from Zierahn-Weilage's paper "Expertise at Work: New Technologies, New Skills, and Worker Impacts", co-authored with Căcilia Lipowski of the ifo Institute and Anna Salomons, also from Utrecht University.

Zierahn-Weilage's presentation highlighted how rapid technological change is prompting updates to vocational training curricula. The researchers analysed connections between training content and breakthrough patents, and showed that occupations most exposed to emerging technologies are also those where curricula are evolving the fastest. Rather than focusing on traditional routine tasks, training is increasingly geared towards equipping students with non-automatable digital and social skills.

These shifts are producing measurable effects. Workers who receive training aligned with new technological demands are more likely to remain in the occupation they've trained for, and to experience wage gains. At the same time, these changes pose a challenge for older workers whose skills have become outdated, potentially widening generational divides in the labour market.

The study also finds that firms are not passive in this transformation. Employers ramp up capital investments when they hire workers with tech-relevant skills, particularly those emerging from high-tech training programmes.

Access the paper [here](#)



SkiLMeeT webinar explores the future of skills amid green and digital transitions

The SkiLMeeT stakeholder webinar “The future of skills in the context of the twin transition” brought together 19 participants for a discussion on how the digital and green transitions are reshaping skill needs across Europe.

The event was organised and moderated by SkiLMeeT researcher Professor Vassil Kirov of the Institute of Philosophy and Sociology at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences on June 5, 2025. It aimed to reach beyond the world of research and connect with the people who shape the world of work every day: employers, trade unions, and labour market practitioners.

“Our goal is to share insights and start a conversation about how data and research can help respond to changing skill needs,” said Kirov.

The webinar featured two presentations. Ulrich Zierahn-Weilage from Utrecht University shared insights from the SkiLMeeT research “The Future of Work: Automation Risks and the Role of Education”. Zierahn-Weilage challenged the common fear of mass job losses due to automation. While up to 47% of current jobs could technically be automated, he emphasised that only about 9% are actually at high risk. The real challenge, he argued, is not the number of jobs disappearing, but whether workers have the skills to move into new roles. Ulrich demonstrated how Germany’s vocational training system is adapting to digital challenges by incorporating non-routine and digital competencies, which have been proven to boost wages and job stability in technology-exposed occupations. See his presentation [here](#).

Chiara Foglio, speaking on behalf of the European Chemical Employers Group (ECEG), presented the goals and early findings of the [ChemSkills](#) project, which focuses on addressing skill gaps driven by the chemical sector’s triple transformation: green, digital, and sustainability-focused. She shared preliminary insights from the Future Skills Survey, showing that 61% of industry respondents expect the green transition to significantly impact their work, while 27% anticipate a strong effect from digital transformation. Chiara also emphasised the growing need for training in digital tools, sustainable-by-design chemistry, and circular economy practices, especially in

The presentations were followed by a discussion on how these findings can be applied in practice to support sectors facing disruption. Questions centred on how to ensure education systems can respond swiftly and effectively, and how policy and industry can collaborate to aid struggling sectors during economic crises.

The second stakeholder webinar will be organised in the autumn of 2025.

SkiLMeeT Researchers at events:



Ronald Bachmann speaks at Day of Progressive Economic Policy

SkiLMeeT researcher Ronald Bachmann (RWI – Leibniz Institute for Economic Research) spoke at the “Day of Progressive Economic Policy” about the effects of demographic change and the challenges posed by the digital and green transitions.

Held in Berlin and hosted by the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung, the event brought together hundreds of experts from government, academia, industry, and trade unions to debate strategies for a fair and future-proof economic policy. This year’s edition focused on investments and reforms needed for European competitiveness and social justice.

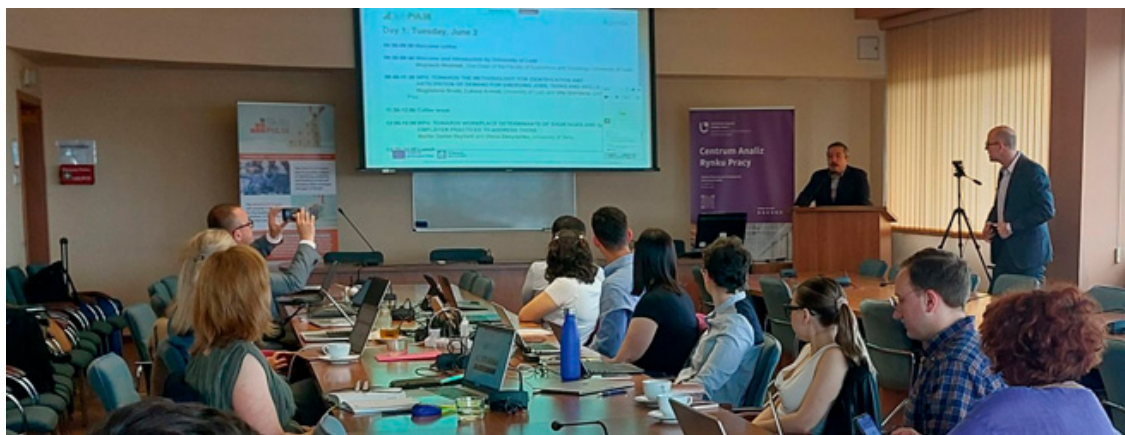
Ronald Bachmann contributed to the panel *Labour market under pressure? Instruments and responsibilities for a skill-securing labour market policy*. Speakers noted that demographic shifts are creating workforce gaps despite the economic slowdown. They highlighted how automation and the green transition are changing job demands, stressing the growing need for education, training, and coordinated efforts from policymakers, employers, and trade unions.

Other speakers in that session included:

- Indira Dupuis, IGBCE Labour and Environment Foundation

- Enrico Letta, President of the Jacques Delors Institute and former Prime Minister of Italy, delivered a keynote address. The Day of Progressive Economic Policy serves as a platform to rethink economic policy in light of global uncertainty, climate goals, and social justice.

You can read more about the event [here](#).



SkiLMeeT researchers discuss data on skills shortages and gaps at SkillsPULSE seminar

SkiLMeeT researchers Najada Fejmi (LISER) and Roy Peijen (TNO) showed how information extracted from online job ads and LinkedIn data can help us understand changing skill needs, during the SkillsPULSE research seminar on June 5, 2025 at the University of Łódź.

The event, “Skills signals: leveraging online job vacancies and big data to identify skills shortages and gaps,” was organised by the SkillsPULSE project and provided a platform for three other Horizon Europe projects – SkiLMeeT, SKILLAB, and TRAILS – to present their approaches to data and discuss them with stakeholders.

Najada Fejmi presented joint research by a team of LISER researchers in her talk “Skill Demand in the Age of AI: Evidence from Europe.” The researchers used 2018-2024 job ad data from France, Germany, Belgium, and Luxembourg to explore how AI is shaping employers’ demand for skills over time. Using a large language model, Mixtral 8x7B, they extracted and classified skills from job descriptions into several categories. This allowed them to track the evolution of demand for different types of skills over time. Preliminary findings suggest that exposure to AI is reshaping what employers value in the workforce. The most significant changes in skill demand occur between occupations rather than within them. There is a growing emphasis on complementary skills, such as data analysis, decision-making, and social or communication skills, rather than on narrow specialisations. Different jobs now require a broader mix of skills than before, but within each job, AI doesn’t appear to influence how focused or varied the required skills are.

Roy Peijen (TNO) presented an analysis of using LinkedIn data to identify skills and occupational

Peijen also addressed limitations, such as the underrepresentation of low-skilled workers and incomplete profile data, proposing solutions such as weighting techniques. His presentation highlighted the potential of LinkedIn data to inform and enhance workforce development strategies by providing actionable insights for regional policies and skill development.



Francesco Vona presents a keynote at the WeLaR final conference

SkiLMeeT researcher Francesco Vona (Università degli Studi di Milano and Fondazione Eni Enrico Mattei) delivered a keynote at the final conference of Project WeLaR on 12 June in Brussels, offering insights into the labour market effects of the green transition and the political challenges that accompany it.

Drawing on over a decade of research, Vona argued that to fully understand how climate policies reshape work, we need to look at tasks, not just occupations. A job's "greenness," he explained, often depends on the specific tasks it involves. Aggregating at the occupational level can lead to significant overestimation of green employment – by as much as a factor of ten.

Vona highlighted that a successful green transition must go beyond innovation: it must also be politically sustainable. Lessons from the China shock remind us that managing labour market disruptions is essential to building public support for structural change. Policies such as retraining, reskilling, and place-based interventions like the EU's Just Transition Fund are crucial for protecting the communities most exposed to the shift away from fossil fuels.

The discussion following the keynote was moderated by fellow SkiLMeeT researcher Piotr Lewandowski (IBS), who also offered comments on Vona's findings.

The WeLaR Final Conference, "The effects of digitalisation, globalisation, climate change and demographic shifts on labour markets and welfare states in the European Union", brought together leading experts to explore the future of work in the era of demographic, digital, and environmental transformations.

SKILLS FOR LABOUR MARKETS IN THE DIGITAL AND GREEN TRANSITION

SkiLMeeT is a research project carried out by eight research institutions, exploring how the 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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