



NEWSLETTER #8, July 2026

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From the Editors:

In this issue, we announce the first details of the SkiLMeeT Final Conference, which will bring together researchers and policymakers in Brussels this October to discuss workers, firms and skills in the digital and green transition.

We also highlight two new SkiLMeeT studies. One examines the extent of the green job wage premium, showing that although green vacancies tend to offer higher wages, only a relatively small share of this premium is directly linked to performing green tasks. The other shows how regular updates to vocational training curricula can help reduce skill mismatch and keep pace with technological change.

This issue also features highlights from SkiLMeeT researchers' participation in conferences,

expert meetings, seminars, and webinars. Their presentations covered topics including online job vacancy data, automation and educational choices, workers' exposure to artificial intelligence, and wage incentives in green jobs, helping bring SkilMeeT research to wider academic and policy audiences.

To stay up to date with the project, visit www.skilmeet.eu and follow us on [LinkedIn](#) and [Bluesky](#). We also hope to welcome many of you to the Final Conference in Brussels this October.

– The Editors

Upcoming Event:

22-23 October - SkilMeeT Conference: “Workers, Firms, and Skills in the Digital and Green Transition”



SkilMeeT conference to feature four keynote speakers and more than 30 presentations

The SkilMeeT Final Conference, "Workers, Firms, and Skills in the Digital and Green Transition", will feature four keynote speakers, including two leading labour economists and two senior European Commission policy experts, as well as more than 30 presentations showcasing the latest research on the changing world of work, skills, technological change, and the green and digital transitions.

The keynote speakers are Ines Helm, Professor of Economics at JKU Linz; Oskar Nordström Skans, Professor of Economics at Uppsala University; Frank Siebern-Thomas, Head of Unit for Fair Green and Digital Transitions and Research at the European Commission's Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion; and Francesco Losappio, Policy Officer at the same Directorate-General. Together, they bring expertise from academia and European policymaking on labour economics,

technological change, skills, labour mobility, and the employment and social dimensions of Europe's green and digital transitions, offering complementary perspectives on how labour markets can adapt to a rapidly changing economy.

The conference will take place on 22 and 23 October 2026 in Brussels at the Representation of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia to the European Union, Rue Montoyer 47.

The full programme will be announced in August together with the opening of registration for participants who are not presenting at the conference.

SkiLMeeT research:



SkiLMeeT research provides new evidence on the green job premium

The SkiLMeeT research paper "Returns to Green Tasks in Europe: Evidence from Online Job Vacancies" finds that while green jobs appear to pay around 5.5% more on average, most of this wage gap is explained by the fact that these jobs are often offered by higher-paying firms and tend to require broader or more advanced skills. Once these factors are taken into account, the actual wage premium associated with performing green tasks is only about 2%.

The authors, Leanne Cass, Federico Fabio Frattini, Aurélien Saussay, Misato Sato and Francesco Vona, analyse millions of online job vacancies across Europe between 2018 and 2023.

They argue that wage incentives alone are unlikely to encourage workers to move into green roles at the scale needed for the green transition. This points to the importance of continued investment in training, reskilling and broader workforce development policies across Europe.

The paper has been published in the [Grantham Research Institute Working Paper Series of the London School of Economics and Political Science](#) and the [Fondazione Eni Enrico Mattei Working Paper Series](#). It

was also presented at the World Congress of Environmental and Resource Economics in Carcavelos, Portugal on 2 July 2026.



SkiLMeeT research shows regular updates to vocational training curricula can reduce skill mismatch

The paper "Technological Change and Skill Gaps" shows that, on average, a curriculum update lowers the share of skills demanded by employers but not supplied through the relevant curriculum by about 4 percentage points compared with similar occupations that do not experience an update during the same period.

The authors, Lukas Jonas, Anna Salomons, Cécilia vom Baur and Ulrich Zierahn-Weilage, analyse Germany's dual vocational training system, in which vocationally trained workers account for around 70% of the workforce. Drawing on the near-universe of German dual-system vocational curricula linked to online job advertisements from 2017 to 2025, they develop a novel ESCO-based measure of curriculum-job advertisement mismatch. By comparing the skills specified in vocational curricula with those requested in job advertisements, and exploiting the timing of curriculum revisions, they estimate the effect of updating training content on the alignment between education and labour market demand.

The study also finds that mismatch gradually increases as curricula age, suggesting that training content becomes less aligned with employer needs as technologies and work organisation evolve. This points to the importance of regular monitoring of emerging skill needs, including through job ad data, as an input into curriculum design.

The findings are especially relevant for occupations exposed to technological change. Curriculum updates reduce mismatch in both high- and low-technology occupations, but occupations that are more exposed to digital breakthrough innovations require more frequent updates to maintain a similar level of skill alignment.

The paper builds on previous SkiLMeeT research showing that updated vocational curricula can raise

wages, particularly in technology-exposed occupations. Taken together, the findings suggest that curriculum reform is not only an education-policy issue, but also a labour-market tool for reducing skill gaps and helping workers benefit from technological change.

SkiLMeeT researchers at events:



Najada Feimi presents SkiLMeeT research at SkillsPULSE seminar

Najada Feimi (LISER) showcased SkiLMeeT research at the Joint Research Seminar on Open Job Vacancies Analysis, organised by the SkillsPULSE project.

The online event on 26 May 2026 brought together more than 50 researchers to exchange ideas and address key methodological and data-related challenges shaping the future of job vacancy analysis.

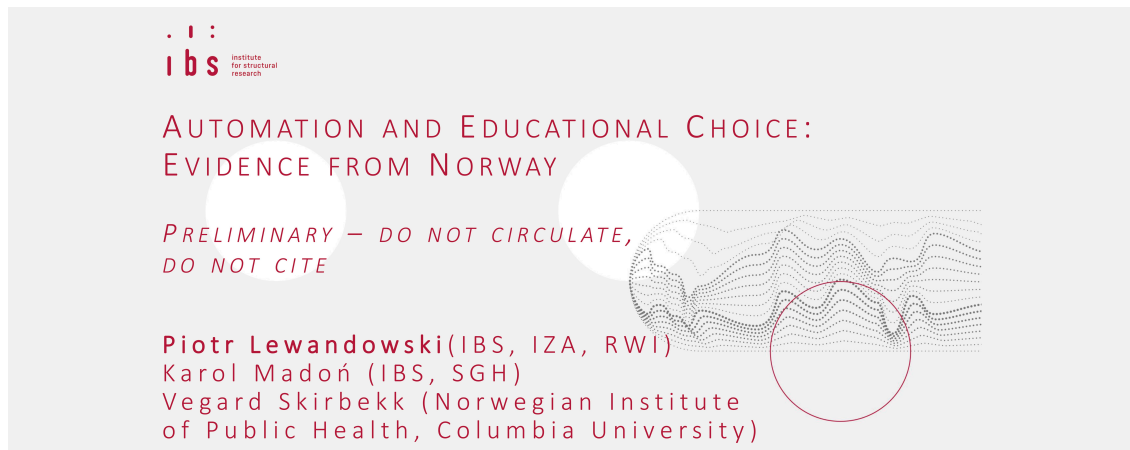
Her presentation, “The Data Processing Pipeline for OJV – Methods and Challenges”, addressed how online job vacancy (OJV) data can be processed to generate reliable insights on skills demand and labour market dynamics.

Drawing on a dataset of more than 100 million job advertisements covering Luxembourg, Belgium, France, and Germany, the presentation highlighted the complexity of working with web-scraped labour market data. Rather than relying directly on existing variables, the SkiLMeeT team developed a comprehensive data processing pipeline to extract key information – including skills, occupations, locations, and firm characteristics—from raw job descriptions.

The process involves multiple stages, including data cleaning, deduplication, information extraction using machine learning models, and validation against manually labelled data. These steps are necessary to address common challenges such as inconsistent information, multilingual content, and differences in data quality across countries.

The presentation emphasised that building reliable indicators from OJV data requires iterative refinement and careful validation at each stage, particularly when aiming to support cross-country analysis and policy-relevant research.

The seminar brought together Horizon-funded projects, researchers, and representatives from EU institutions to discuss how web-based labour market intelligence can contribute to understanding skills needs and supporting evidence-based policy development across Europe.



SkiLMeeT research presented at project FORTIS webinar on the impacts of automation

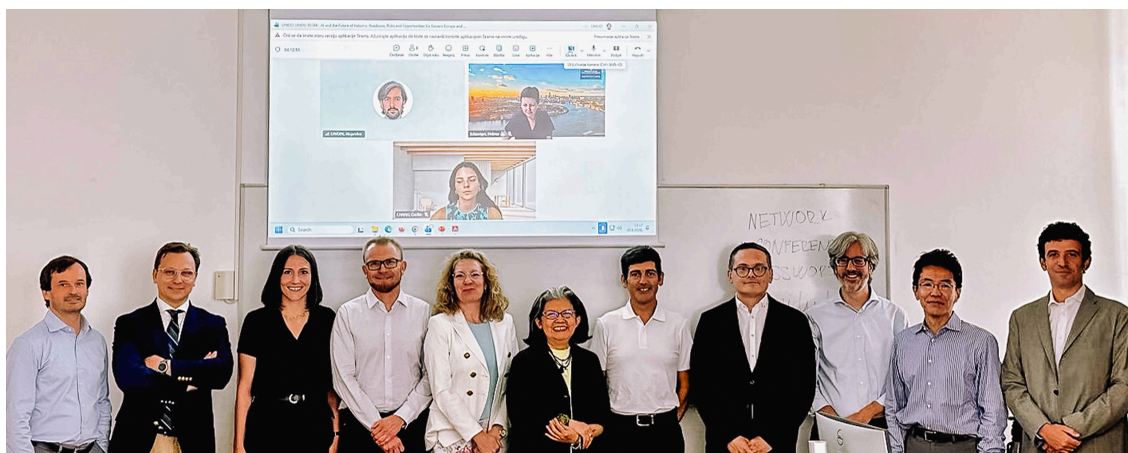
Piotr Lewandowski (IBS) presented SkiLMeeT research at the FORTIS project webinar on the impacts of automation on 30 June 2026.

Lewandowski showcased the paper “Automation and Educational Choice: Evidence from Norway”, co-authored with Karol Madoń and Vegard Skirbekk, which shows how industrial automation influences young people’s educational choices and the skills they acquire.

Using student-level data from Norway for 2006 – 2018, combined with regional data on robot adoption, the research investigates whether industrial automation discourages students from choosing vocational education pathways that lead to automation-prone occupations.

The preliminary findings show that students living in regions where exposure to industrial robots is rising more strongly are less likely to choose automation-prone vocational tracks. The effect is particularly strong among boys and among students whose fathers work in routine manual occupations. The study also finds that lower-achieving students are more likely to select these vocational pathways, pointing to patterns of negative selection that may contribute to widening inequalities in the future.

The webinar explored the implications of automation for labour markets, skills, education and public policy, providing an opportunity for SkiLMeeT research to contribute to discussions on the future of work and skills in Europe.



SkiLMeeT contributes evidence to UNIDO discussions on AI and industrial development

Piotr Lewandowski (IBS) took part in the expert meeting “AI and the Future of Industry: Readiness, Risks and Opportunities for Eastern Europe and Central Asia”, organised by the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) on 25 June 2026, in Dubrovnik.

The meeting brought together leading experts to provide input for the next edition of the UNIDO Industrial Development Report, which will focus on the role of artificial intelligence in industrial development. During the meeting, Piotr Lewandowski presented the paper “Workers’ Exposure to AI in Europe and Central Asia”, which examines cross-country differences in workers’ exposure to artificial intelligence. The study utilises indicators created in the SkiLMeeT project.

The research shows that workers performing the same occupation often carry out different tasks depending on a country’s level of economic development, leading to substantial differences in AI exposure. The findings indicate that workers in Central and Eastern Europe and Central Asia are, on average, less exposed to AI than those in Western Europe. These differences are driven primarily by ICT intensity, occupational structure, and firm characteristics.

Participants included representatives from UNIDO, the European Commission’s Joint Research Centre (JRC), Eurostat, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), academia, and organisations working on AI development and implementation.

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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