

**EIGHT INTERNATIONAL
ASTRIL CONFERENCE**

**THE FUTURE OF WORK:
TECHNICAL PROGRESS, ARTIFICIAL
INTELLIGENCE AND WORKING TIMES**

23 - 24 JANUARY 2025

SCUOLA DI ECONOMIA E STUDI AZIENDALI
VIA SILVIO D'AMICO 77, ROMA
BLENDED MODE (IN-PERSON AND VIRTUAL)

CALL FOR PAPERS

The impact of technological progress on labour market outcomes and income distribution is a key topic on both academic and political agendas. Recently, the rise and spread of Artificial Intelligence (AI) has added a new dimension to this topic given the revolutionary changes it brings to the organization of production and the role of workers in the labour process. The proliferation of AI has created huge opportunities for automation and the substitution of human labour. At the same time, the demand for new skills has sparked a critical need to rethink workforce training and education.

These changes are reshaping both labour demand and labour supply with significant implications for policy decisions, not only in terms of industrial and production policies, but also in the realms of welfare, income distribution, and education. With regard to the labour market, the acceleration of automation, combined with the stagnation of overall labour productivity and the poor performance of real wages in many capitalist economies—particularly in Europe—brings the issue of changing working times and increasing the standard of living of population to the fore. The manner in which those changes should take place, the sectors affected, and their potential impact on both personal and functional income distribution are all critical questions. All stakeholders, especially governments and trade unions, play a crucial role in managing these transformations.

We cordially invite scholars, researchers and experts in economics to submit their papers and join us at the Eighth International ASTRIL Conference where we will explore the multifaceted challenges and opportunities that are emerging in the evolving labour market landscape. Together with contributions on all aspects related to the evolution of the labour market, those in the following topics are particularly welcome:

1. Labour Demand and Supply: their Changes and the Multifaceted Challenges for Public Policy

The effects of robust innovation can be asymmetric and may lead to labour market marginalization. While new employment opportunities emerge, others become obsolete, resulting in adverse consequences for individuals' incomes and social sustainability. These processes may also lead to an increase in the level of unemployment and underemployment that persists over time, according to the kind of technical progress, the sectors involved, and their geographical localization. As a result, a comprehensive policy approach encompassing active labour market policies, minimum wage regulations, unemployment benefits and social welfare provisions must be implemented to address these challenges.

2. Structural Change, Labour Productivity and Working Times: The Role of Social Partners and Legislation

The impact of innovation on the labour market is a subject of ongoing debate in the academic literature. From a policy perspective, there is a pressing need for proactive and transparent measures also involving a reduction in working hours and changes in the work-life balance. The modalities in which these changes will occur and their effects on labour productivity and income distribution are all issues to be analysed, also in light of the phenomenon of the working poor. A crucial role in this respect must be ascribed to wage bargaining and an appropriate system of tax incentives in order to ensure that both workers' standards of living and firm competitiveness are maintained.

3. Macroeconomic Policies, Budget Constraints and Income Distribution

The wave of technical innovations may have macroeconomic effects that should be addressed by appropriate fiscal and monetary policies. However, EU countries are reverting to fiscal regulations that enforce austerity in order to respect the Stability and Growth Pact. Furthermore, the stringent monetary policy implemented by the European Central Bank after the increase in prices determined by the war in Ukraine has been only partially reverted, while nominal wage growth has not yet ensured full recovery in real wages, especially in countries such as Italy, sharpening the low rise in wages compared with labour productivity that has led on average in the last decades in the main industrialized countries to a fall in the wage share. Therefore, how to reform the European institutional context and which monetary and fiscal policies should be implemented in order to improve the standard of living of the European population are relevant issues, especially when considering the social measures needed to face the structural changes determined by technical progress.

Deadlines	Abstracts and session proposals (300-500 words):	25 November 2024
	Notification of acceptance:	8 December 2024
	Delivery of papers:	8 January 2025

Submission Please write the topic that the paper refers to (1, 2, 3) in the abstract and send it or the session proposal (4 papers at least) to: astril@uniroma3.it. If the abstract refers generically to the evolving labour market, state that it concerns topic 4.