

Concept note

Track 1 'Job creation and prosperity'

1. Background and objectives

The number of the unemployed is forecasted to exceed 200 million in 2017 with an additional 2.7 million expected in 2018, as labour force growth outstrips job creation rate¹. Precarious and low-paid jobs still account for over 46 per cent of total employment globally, affecting nearly 1.5 billion people across the world². In the developing world, the majority of workers are trapped in informal and vulnerable jobs. Social discontent, poverty, inequality and political malaise often are the corollaries of unemployment and precarious employment.

The period between now and 2030 is expected to be marked by continuing issues related to the quantity and quality of jobs, as a result of economic fluctuations, demographic changes, technological innovations, urbanization and other factors. Some studies predict that by 2050, half of the jobs as we know them today could be performed by robots or machines. Other studies estimate that some 470 million new jobs will have to be created from 2016 to 2030 in order to effectively manage and keep pace with the implications of these technological and demographic changes, among other things.

Women, youth, and the most disadvantaged groups on the labour market such as minority ethnic groups, migrants and persons with disabilities are particularly challenged by employment and the quality of jobs. Youth unemployment reached 13.1 percent in 2016, up from 12.9 per cent in 2015 which has been at about the same levels or lower since the 1990s³. 16 per cent of all employed youth were living below the poverty line in 2015, compared to 9 per cent of working adults. Women are underrepresented in wage employment in most regions and often bear the burden of unpaid care work⁴.

Against this backdrop, this track will examine the innovative policy strategies, programmes, measures and institutional mechanisms through which governments promote decent jobs towards enhanced prosperity for all.

1 World Employment and Social Outlook – Trends 2017, ILO, 2016

2 Idem. http://www.ilo.org/global/about-the-ilo/newsroom/news/WCMS_443500/lang--en/index.htm

3 <http://www.un.org/youthenvoy/2016/08/global-youth-unemployment-rise/>

4 OECD 2016. Available at <http://www.oecd.org/gender/data/balancingpaidworkunpaidworkandleisure.htm> and <http://stats.oecd.org/index.aspx?queryid=54757>



2. Related SDGs

SDG 1: “End poverty in all its forms everywhere and for all.”

SDG 8: “Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all”.

SDGs 1 and 8 are the most related goals to the topic of this track. They aim *inter alia*, at the halving of the proportion of men, women and children of all ages living in poverty; implementing nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures for all; ensuring access to basic services to all and substantial coverage of the poor and the vulnerable; enhancing labor productivity; promoting entrepreneurship and innovation; and ensuring inclusive finance, all towards decent job creation.

3. Public administration policy issues and trends

Order of the themes in which they apply to this track:



Leadership and capacities for innovative government

Addressing labour market challenges and creating quality jobs for all requires commitment and collaboration among all stakeholders, notably governments, civil society and the private sector. Digitization is changing the labour market with some jobs being lost while others are created in the digital economy. Leadership as well as strengthening government capacities is critical for effective policy formulation and innovation to promote job creation, especially by unlocking the potential of the private sector, and creating new business models.



Transparent, accountable and participatory institutions

Public governance is important for employment and decent work. Rule of law, sound institutions, policy coherence, and collaboration across sectors and between the local and national levels of administration are all vital for job creation and prosperity. Effective grassroots participation in policy design, implementation, and review can contribute to sustained job creation and decent work.



Overcoming challenges through technology

Public administrations worldwide are adopting various ICT tools and strategies for promoting entrepreneurship, creating decent work for youth, women, persons with disabilities and others including people living in poverty-stricken or conflict areas.



Policy coherence and integration

Growth oriented policies must be coupled with social policies that can harness the positive impact of pro-employment economic policies in generating more and better quality jobs for different population segments. It is thus necessary to support

improvements in wages, working conditions, labour institutions and employment standards in the context of the structural transformation of an economy. Social protection programmes that respond to the needs of vulnerable groups are also important. Employment and decent work are supported by policies aimed at mobilizing investment and entrepreneurial opportunities.

4. Key questions for Discussion

What are the key **innovations** in this track/in the best practices? What makes them groundbreaking and future proof? What are the learning points?

What are the **results of the innovative practices** in this track? How and to what extent do the results support the realization of the SDGs? What are things to watch out for?

What is the engagement/involvement/impact of the innovations in the public sector? How do the results and innovations help the public sector **to become more effective and inclusive**?

