



LABOUR MARKET

AI⁺

HARNESSING THE POWER OF COMBINED TECHNOLOGIES FOR THE NEAR FUTURE OF WORK

A NONFERENCE

29 SEPTEMBER – 2 OCTOBER 2026

UN CAMPUS, TURIN – ITALY



UNIVERSITÀ
DI TORINO



Politecnico
di Torino



International
Labour
Organization



WHAT'S AI+?

At ITCILO, our work on AI has gradually expanded into a broader reflection on how different technological developments interact and reinforce one another, as captured in our [Manifesto on Emerging Technologies for Social Justice](#). This has led us to a set of pressing questions:

- “ What happens when AI and robotics converge in the employment sector? ”*
- “ How do AI-powered neurotechnologies reshape the way we understand and assess learning performance? ”*
- “ What new dynamics emerge when distributed ledgers intersect with AI in areas such as smart contracts? ”*

These are not distant scenarios: they are already taking shape.

This is what we refer to as **AI+**: **the combined effect of multiple technologies interacting in today's world of work**, and a space we are keen to explore together with the ITCILO community, in collaboration with our key partners, the **European Training Foundation (ETF)**, **Politecnico di Torino** and the **University of Turin**.

WHAT THE HECK IS A NONFERENCE?

A “**nonference**” is our response to what we heard directly from alumni.

Their input is clear: while AI and data are top priorities, there is a need to move beyond single-technology thinking, to better understand the broader emerging tech landscape while staying grounded in real implications for skills, labour markets, policy, and learning.

This creates not only a **thematic challenge**, but a **methodological one**. A traditional course feels too rigid; a standard conference, too passive. What is needed instead is a space that inspires, fuels learning and ideas, fosters meaningful connections, and leads to tangible outcomes (e.g. early-stage policy ideas, prototype tools, pilot project concepts, or partnership opportunities emerging from the interaction among participants.).

Hence, the “**nonference**”: a format that blends elements such as challenge labs, co-creation sessions, and strategic dialogues, while opening up to innovation ecosystems (e.g. structured engagement with startups, applied research centres, digital platforms, and non-traditional labour market actors showcasing tested solutions and business models). It is also a space where **formats themselves become part of the experience**, including more visual and interactive approaches, in line with the strong preference for practice-oriented, engaging learning expressed by the community.

Curious to learn more? Overleaf is a snapshot of the methodological formats that will shape the experience of our event:



OBJECTIVES

The **AI+ Nonference** will pursue three clear objectives, aligned with ITCILO's commitment to creating spaces for exchange and collaboration among key labour market stakeholders to **shape fair digital transitions rooted in social justice**:

- Raise awareness of the **compounded effects on the world of work of Artificial Intelligence when combined with other digital technologies**;
- Inspire the ITCILO community through **concrete case studies and initiatives** already deployed in real-world contexts;
- Support the **conceptualization and design of new ideas and solutions to address local and national challenges**, contributing to **co-creating a Near Future of Work** in line with the Decent Work Agenda.

Data gathered in the ITCILO alumni community confirms a strong and growing need to better **understand and engage with the next wave of digital transformation in the labour market**.

AI and data are key priorities, moving beyond single-technology perspectives toward a **more holistic view**. This reinforces the importance of supporting informed, step-by-step integration of AI-powered technologies into economies and societies, while actively contributing to **reducing the digital divide, particularly in developing and emerging countries**.

To this end, the AI+ Nonference will present and discuss not only advanced AI-powered technologies, but also **frugal innovation solutions** promoted by providers and institutions committed to open-source values and environmentally responsible approaches.

Shaping the Near Future of Work cannot be done in isolation. The AI+ Nonference will therefore include **dedicated networking moments** aimed at fostering connections and supporting the co-creation of solutions to shared challenges across different contexts.

WHO IS THE AI+ NONFERENCE FOR?

The Nonference is designed as a community event for stakeholders shaping labour market responses to technological change, namely:

- Policymakers and government officials;
- Key staff and representatives of workers' organizations and EBMOs;
- Educators and skills development experts involved in workforce preparation and lifelong learning systems.
- Enterprise and SME actors working on innovation, entrepreneurship, and business development.
- Development practitioners working at the nexus of decent work and digital transformation.
- Innovation ecosystem actors applying emerging technologies in labour market contexts.
- Anyone interested in the future of work and applied emerging technologies.

AI+ EXPLORATION FIELDS

The AI+ Nonference directly contributes to [ILO Programme and Budget Outcome 8](#), supporting constituents in harnessing digital transformation to advance decent work, inclusive labour markets, and sustainable enterprises.

To structure this exploration, the event is organized around three interconnected policy areas—the “Three Es”—reflecting three parts of the core ILO mandate:

- **Education for the world of Work** (skills and lifelong learning systems): Strengthening skills development, reskilling and upskilling systems to respond to evolving labour market needs, as well as building individual, organizational and systemic capacities of key labour market stakeholders to face the disruptions of the world of work;
- **Employment** (labour markets and transitions): Promoting productive employment, supporting labour market institutions, and managing transitions in the face of technological change, with the support of evidence-based policies;
- **Enterprise** (sustainable enterprises and economies): Fostering an enabling environment for sustainable enterprises, innovation, and responsible business practices.

The table below maps **how AI+**, as the combined effect of multiple technologies, **intersects with these areas**.

It highlights **concrete domains where technological developments are already shaping policy questions and practice**—across learning systems, labour market dynamics, and enterprise development.

These fields represent entry points for discussion, experimentation, and co-creation within the ITCILO mandate that will be explored through the Nonference.

Technology	Policy Field		
	Education	Employment	Enterprise
AI+ Robotics	Use of robots in teaching & learning Simulation methodologies	Human-machine collaboration Impact of physical AI on employment	Humanoid robots in the service sectors
AI+ Extended Realities	Immersive training for policymaking simulations Stimulating changes in behaviour		
AI+ Biotech	Prevention of OSH-related threats Combined effect of AI/XR and Biotech in learning	New skillsets arising from synthetic biology Impact on employment in specific sectors: health, agriculture	
AI+ Quantum	Quantum awareness, literacy, and mastery beyond formal education Data collection for quantum-powered learning journeys	Mapping the quantum education-to-employment pipeline for youth in emerging economies	From quantum research to accessible use-case deployment
AI+ Neurotech	Support learners' functions Inclusive learning environments for neurodiverse learners, addressing ethical considerations Behavioural change and advocacy	Workplace monitoring and cognitive performance assessment: implications for workers' rights, ethics, and regulation	Business Decision Policy design
AI+ Cyber-security			Enterprise protection SME development
AI+ Distributed Ledgers	Support verifiable digital (micro)credentials		Smart contracts Mobile Money
AI+ GeoData		Impact Evaluation of Employment Policies Labour Market Statistics	Productivity Index Insurance Just Transition and green jobs Responsible Business Conduct

* This mapping is illustrative rather than exhaustive and will evolve thanks to participant contributions during the nonference itself.

AGENDA

The Nonference is structured over four days, each with a clear progression from awareness to concrete action, while ensuring an inclusive and highly practical experience.

Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4
Awareness Raising	Exploration @ITCILO Innovation Day	Co-construction Design Sprint	Action-oriented Output production
Introductory sessions and contextual discussions focused on understanding trends, challenges, and emerging transformations.	Open and accessible demonstrations, innovation showcases, and participant engagement to explore innovative initiatives and solutions.	Collaborative sessions where participants co-create practical responses to emerging challenges in education, employment, and enterprise shaped by AI+ technologies.	Hands-on pathways leading to concrete takeaways. Outputs may include prototypes, recordings, concepts, and designs connected to ITCILO's ongoing work.

Participants will engage in hands-on pathways leading to concrete takeaways—such as awareness-raising tools, policy ideas, or advocacy plans—while focusing on “micro-achievements”: low-cost, practical ways to continue exploring these technologies beyond the event. The day will offer multiple tracks (e.g. media lab with live coaching, gamification, collaborative design spaces), allowing participants to choose based on their interests and work in teams with peers and experts. The outcome is both individual and collective: a strengthened network across public and private actors, and a set of tangible outputs—prototypes, recordings, or concept designs—that participants can take forward, alongside contributions that can inform ITCILO's ongoing work.

COSTS

The total cost of participation in the event is **€2,060**. This includes:

- event fees of **€1,345**, which cover event preparation, implementation, and evaluation; training materials and books; the use of training facilities, support services, and the ITCILO eCampus; as well as emergency medical insurance and support for visa obtention ;
- subsistence costs of **€715**, which cover full board and lodging on the ITCILO Campus throughout the duration of the event.

Please note that the amounts quoted do not include the cost of travel between the participant's home country and the event venue.

CERTIFICATION

Participants who attend the entire Nonference will receive a digital certificate of participation issued by the ITCILO.

APPLICATION

The deadline for submitting application to the event is **4 August, 2026**.

Candidates must submit the following documents:

- on-line application form duly completed, available at: <https://oarf2.itcilo.org/STF/E9019432/en>
- a letter from the sponsor or the applicant indicating financial support, to be uploaded when filling in the on-line application.

Incomplete applications will not be considered.

LANGUAGE

This event will be held in English.

INFO

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION
PLEASE CONTACT**

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