



SOCIAL DIALOGUE

SUMMER SCHOOL ON SOCIAL DIALOGUE

Social dialogue and living wages

7–9 JULY 2026
TURIN, ITALY



Call for contributions

Summer School on Social Dialogue

2026 topic: *Social Dialogue and Living Wages*

More than half of the global workforce is employed, but millions of workers earn incomes that are insufficient for a decent standard of living. In low-income countries, half of employees earn less than approximately 201 dollars per month, according to the ILO's Global Wage Report 2024-25. In response to persistently low wages, initiatives to promote a living wage are multiplying, particularly within multinational companies. In February 2024, the ILO adopted conclusions establishing a common definition of a living wage, principles for its estimation, and guidelines for its implementation, in line with its fundamental principles of wage setting. The ILO is now mandated to support its constituents in estimating and applying living wages and to promote their alignment with these principles.

As part of its 2026 Summer School on Social Dialogue, the ILO International Training Centre (ITC/ILC) invites researchers, practitioners, and experts from the world of work to submit proposals for contributions on the theme: "*Social dialogue and living wages*".

This call for papers aims to enrich academic debate and practices regarding the role of social dialogue in promoting, negotiating and implementing living wage initiatives. The selected contributions will feed into the discussions during the Summer School, which will be held from 7 to 9 July 2026 in Turin, Italy.

The call is open to interdisciplinary approaches. Contributions reflecting diverse academic and professional backgrounds, as well as geographical diversity in the contexts studied, will be particularly appreciated.

Thematic Areas

Proposals may be based on case studies, comparative analyses, empirical research, or theoretical contributions. They may address the following issues in particular:

1. Emergence of the debate and awareness

- How is the issue of living wages emerging within companies or sectors?
- Through which actors (employers' organisations, workers' organisations, company management, civil society, etc.) and through which mechanisms does this topic become a subject of social dialogue?
- What does this emergence reveal about the possible limitations of existing wage-setting frameworks?

2. Involvement of social partners and social dialogue dynamics

- To what extent and at what levels (company, sector, national, transnational) are the social partners — in particular, workers' representatives — involved in the design and implementation of living wage initiatives?
- Have these initiatives promoted the emergence or strengthening of social dialogue practices, including in innovative forms?
- Which social dialogue bodies within companies (works councils, collective bargaining mechanisms, international framework agreements, etc.) have played a role in implementing living wage initiatives?
- How do these institutions interact with sectoral or national frameworks?

3. Link with responsible business conduct and due diligence

- To what extent have responsible business conduct and/or due diligence processes led to the implementation of living wage initiatives? If so, through which mechanisms (e.g., responsible purchasing practices, certifications, supplier agreements, contractual clauses, etc.)?
- What is the role of the social partners in these processes?

Submission Guidelines

Abstracts (maximum 400 words) should include:

- An introduction to the topic
- The research question(s)
- The proposed methodology
- The expected contribution to the literature and/or debates on industrial relations
- The main results (or expected results)

Proposals will be evaluated by the Summer School's scientific committee based on their relevance, originality, and contribution to debates on social dialogue and living wage.

Contributions may be submitted in either French or English.

Financial Support and Commitment from Authors

Each selected contribution will receive financial support of €4,000.

Selected authors undertake to:

- Participate in the Summer School from 7 to 9 July 2026 in Turin.
- Present and discuss their contribution as part of the proceedings.

Transport and accommodation costs will be covered by ITCILO.

Contributions must be original and free of copyright. Selected authors agree to collaborate with the Centre with a view to publishing their work (terms and conditions to be specified at a later date).

Schedule

- Deadline for submission of proposals: 15 March 2026
- Notification to accepted authors: 2 April 2026
- Submission of full papers (approximately 30,000 characters): 15 June 2026
- Presentation and discussion of contributions: 7–9 July 2026, Turin, Italy

Selected contributions will be presented and discussed in the presence of participants and international experts.

INFO

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

PLEASE CONTACT

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