



POLICY DESIGN

DESIGNING POLICIES FOR IMPACT

POLICYMAKING IN THE AGE OF DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION

4– 8 MAY 2026
TURIN, ITALY

Information Note



International
Labour
Organization



International Training Centre



**Turn complexity into clarity:
master the tools to design
evidence-driven policies in a world
transformed by technology.**



INTRODUCTION TO THE COURSE

Public policymaking today takes place in a context characterised by rapid technological change and increasing institutional complexity. Digital developments are not only generating new policy issues, but they are also reshaping the environment in which public authorities define problems, set priorities and design responses. In this evolving landscape, policymaking cannot rely on linear or purely incremental approaches. Public institutions are required to interpret evolving technological dynamics, anticipate societal implications, manage trade-offs and design coherent and coordinated policy responses. This calls for strong analytical capacity, institutional adaptability and evidence-informed decision-making.

The course “Designing Policies for Impact: Policymaking in the Age of Digital Transformation”, offered within the broader curriculum of the Master in Technology and Public Policy: Achieving Social Impact, focuses on the core stages of the policymaking process in contexts increasingly shaped by technological change. It examines how public problems are identified and framed, how issues enter the political agenda, and how policy options are developed and compared. Participants work on how policy choices are made in practice: defining objectives and a plausible pathway of change, selecting appropriate instruments, anticipating stakeholder responses, and assessing feasibility under conditions of incomplete information and evolving contexts. The course then looks at how decisions translate into implementation strategies within real institutional settings. Particular attention is devoted to understanding how evolving digital environments influence policy priorities, regulatory choices and institutional coordination. The emphasis remains on structured policy analysis, instrument choice and governance capacity.

Digital transformation is addressed throughout the programme as a policy context and as a source of emerging governance challenges. Policy case studies related to technological change are used to apply and test frameworks, enabling participants to examine how established policymaking tools operate when confronted with new and evolving issues. The programme also includes a focused reflection on the role of data-driven and algorithmic systems in decision-making processes, situating these developments within broader questions of accountability, transparency and institutional responsibility.

Each day combines analytical frameworks with applied discussion. Dedicated case work allows participants to test concepts against real-world situations, compare institutional approaches and reflect on practical constraints. The overall objective is to strengthen participants’ ability to design policies that are technically sound, institutionally feasible and capable of generating measurable impact.

WHO ATTENDS THIS COURSE?

This course is designed for:

- Public officials involved in economic, technological, industrial or social policy design and coordination
- Professionals working in international organizations, development institutions and regulatory bodies
- Policy and public affairs experts in technology companies and digital industries
- Representatives of trade unions, employers’ organizations and other social partners
- Policy analysts, researchers and early-career professionals aiming to work in public administration, international organizations or policy consultancy

COURSE STRUCTURE AND CONTENTS

The programme is organised around the core stages of the policymaking process and applies this framework to contemporary governance challenges related to technological change. Participants work through the policy cycle while systematically examining how digital transformation reshapes problem definition, regulatory choices, institutional coordination and accountability mechanisms. Across the week, participants will connect each stage of the cycle to practical design decisions, including what policy levers can realistically be activated under institutional and political constraints.

Each stage is addressed from both a conceptual and an operational perspective, highlighting how analytical tools and governance dynamics interact in practice and how established policymaking approaches can be adapted to technology-related policy challenges.

Problem Identification

The course begins with the analysis of how public problems emerge, how they are framed and measured, and how evidence and competing narratives shape policy priorities. Participants work with structured approaches to define policy problems, clarify assumptions and assess the relevance of evolving societal and technological developments.

Agenda Setting

Participants examine how certain issues gain political attention and enter formal decision-making arenas. Institutional dynamics, stakeholder influence, timing and public debate are analysed to understand how priorities are shaped in changing governance environments. The module considers how political feasibility, institutional mandates and stakeholder coalitions shape which options can realistically move forward.

Policy Development

This module focuses on the formulation and comparison of alternative courses of action. Participants analyse different types of policy instruments — regulatory, financial, informational and organisational — assessing feasibility, coherence and potential unintended consequences. The discussion focuses on how instrument choices work in practice and how these mechanisms may trigger behavioural responses that can support or undermine intended outcomes. Participants also examine how to combine tools into coherent policy mixes and how to manage trade-offs and uncertainty in the design phase. The course also introduces the role of data-driven and algorithmic systems as decision-support tools in the development and assessment of policy options, discussing their methodological limits and governance implications.

Implementation

The course explores governance arrangements, institutional coordination, administrative capacity and multi-level dynamics. Emphasis is placed on understanding the organisational and practical conditions that influence whether policy decisions translate into effective outcomes. Participants examine how implementation capacity, incentives and coordination arrangements can modify the effects of chosen instruments and how delivery constraints should be anticipated during design.

Monitoring & Evaluation (cross-cutting dimension)

Monitoring and evaluation are addressed as integral components of the policy cycle. Indicators, performance measurement and impact assessment are discussed as tools that support accountability, learning and adaptability over time. Monitoring is also discussed as a feedback mechanism that helps identify gaps between expected and observed responses.

Throughout the programme, policy case studies linked to digital transformation are used to apply and test the analytical framework, allowing participants to examine how established policymaking tools operate when confronted with emerging governance challenges.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

By the end of the course, participants will be able to:

- Apply structured analytical tools to identify and frame public policy problems
- Understand how evolving governance contexts, including technological change and digital transformation, influence policymaking environments
- Develop and compare policy options by assessing feasibility, trade-offs and institutional and political constraints, including in contexts characterised by innovation and regulatory complexity
- Apply the policy cycle to technology-related challenges, analysing implications for problem framing, instrument choice and institutional coordination
- Select and justify appropriate policy instruments (regulatory, financial, informational and organisational) in relation to policy objectives and context
- Recognise the opportunities and limitations associated with data-driven and algorithmic decision-support tools within policy processes
- Assess implementation challenges, coordination needs and institutional constraints
- Integrate monitoring and evaluation considerations into the design of impact-oriented policies

METHODOLOGY

The course adopts an interactive and structured approach, combining analytical rigour with applied policy work.

Each day is organised around one stage of the policymaking process. Morning sessions introduce the core frameworks and analytical tools for that stage, supporting participants in clarifying objectives, assessing feasible courses of action and anticipating how interventions may work in practice. The objective is to build a coherent analytical architecture applicable across policy domains and institutional contexts.

Afternoon sessions are devoted to policy case studies related to contemporary governance challenges, including those shaped by digital transformation. These sessions allow participants to apply the frameworks discussed in the morning to concrete policy situations. Working individually and in small groups, participants analyse problem framing, stakeholder configurations, alternative options, implementation constraints and potential evaluation criteria. Case work is used to test the internal consistency of design choices (instruments, expected mechanisms and responses, feasibility constraints) and to explore how uncertainty affects decisions in practice.

The case-based work encourages cross-country and cross-sectoral comparison, allowing participants to draw lessons from diverse governance settings and institutional arrangements. This structure strengthens the connection between theory and practice, fostering the capacity to adapt analytical tools to participants' own professional contexts.

Throughout the week, discussion, peer learning and facilitated debate play a central role, ensuring that the classroom reflects the complexity and plurality of real-world policymaking environments. By alternating conceptual input with applied case work, the course ensures a continuous dialogue between theory and practice, strengthening participants' capacity to design coherent, feasible and impact-oriented public policies.

CERTIFICATION

At the end of the course, in order to evaluate the knowledge and skills learnt, participants will be required to submit a final assignment for review by the ITCILO specialists and trainers. Upon successful completion of this assignment, participants will receive an ITCILO Certificate of Achievement.

APPLICATIONS

The course fees, excluding international air travel, are 1,910 Euros, payable in advance by the participant or their sponsoring organization. These fees cover tuition, accommodation and full board at the Centre's campus.

Applications should be made through the following link: <https://oarf2.itcilo.org/STF/A9019103/en>

The application deadline is **13 April 2026**.

The payment, cancellation and refunds policy of the ITCILO can be consulted on the following website: <https://www.itcilo.org/applications-payments-cancellation>

CAMPUS LIFE

A THRIVING UNITED NATIONS CAMPUS AND COMMUNITY OF PROFESSIONAL PEOPLE FROM AROUND THE WORLD

- **Three organizations** from the United Nations system on campus
- **More than 300 training courses** and activities in a stimulating international environment
- **Thousands of participants** from all over the world

ENVIRONMENT AND SURROUNDINGS

Grab a campus bicycle and explore the Turin Centre.

Located in a leafy park on the banks of the Po River, it's a great place for study and collaboration. Experience innovative learning and training methods in modern classrooms equipped with simultaneous translation services.

HOUSING, DINING, AND MORE

Comprising more than 280 private dormitories, the **Turin Campus provides a broad range of services for course participants and partners** including a free-flow restaurant, travel agency, laundromat, post office, gym, medical services and a reception desk open 24/7.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND DIVERSITY

Participants can enjoy social events organized by the Turin Centre as well as by their course facilitators. Whether on or off campus, people from different cultural backgrounds have the opportunity to listen to live music together, cook and share traditional foods, or team up to play games and network.

WITHDRAWAL, CANCELLATION POLICY, AND REFUNDS FOR OPEN COURSES

If an enrolled participant wishes or must withdraw from a course, they may choose to apply to a different course or be substituted by another candidate. The participant must notify the Centre, in writing, of their decision at least 14 days prior to the start date of the course. Cancellation of participation in regular courses will result in the following penalties:

- 14 days or more prior to the start date of the course: No penalty, 100% refund of amount paid less applicable bank charges
- 8 to 13 days prior to the start date of the course: Penalty of 50% of course price, refund of residual amount paid (if any) less applicable bank charges
- 7 days or less prior to the start date of the course: Penalty of 100% of course price.

INFO

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT

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