



ONLINE

EMPLOYMENT PROMOTION

ECONOMIC POLICIES FOR INCLUSIVE JOB-RICH GROWTH

STRATEGIES FOR UNCERTAIN TIMES

29 SEPTEMBER – 7 NOVEMBER 2025

 6 WEEKS

Information Note




International
Labour
Organization

ITC




International Training Centre





Shape policies that drive inclusive, job-rich growth and turn uncertainty into opportunity.



BACKGROUND

The global economy is undergoing a profound reconfiguration, marked by a complex interplay of structural and geopolitical factors, and overlapping socio-economic, and technological transitions. Heightened policy uncertainty in particular is weighing on economic activities and the United Nations has recently revised downward global growth forecasts for 2025 from 2.9 per cent to 2.4 per cent in 2025, with downward revisions affecting both developed and developing economies.¹ Policy uncertainty is also weighing on labour markets. Slower economic growth is expected to reduce global employment growth from 1.7 to 1.5 per cent in 2025, corresponding to an increase in employment of 53 million, down from the previous forecast of 60 million.² At the same time, employment growth has in the past not been strong enough to reduce decent work deficits, particularly in low-income countries, where informality and working poverty remain pervasive, and the situation is further strained by unresolved debt risks, rising climate-related costs, and geopolitical instability.

Moreover, several challenges persist: investment has weakened, energy prices remain volatile, and despite significant advances in technology, productivity growth is stalling in many regions. Although inflation has begun to recede, real wages have not kept pace with the cost of living—especially in countries where labour demand remains weak. Labour force participation is declining in many low-income countries, particularly among young men, with NEET rates rising. Gender gaps also persist, driven more by structural barriers than real progress in inclusion. Over 400 million people face a global jobs gap due to underemployment and participation barriers and 240 million remain in extreme working poverty. Furthermore, while green and digital transitions offer new job opportunities, their benefits are unevenly distributed and often exclude the most vulnerable.

Today's challenges underscore that deep structural challenges — from productivity stagnation to growing inequalities — continue to limit progress toward inclusive and job-rich growth. Therefore, they call for a strategic rethinking of economic policies — one that places inclusive employment, structural transformation, and social justice at the centre of growth and development strategies.

Jointly offered by the Employment Policy and Analysis Programme of the International Training Centre of the ILO in partnership with the ILO Employment Policy, Job Creation and Livelihoods Department, the “Economic Policies for Inclusive Job-Rich Growth” course responds to that call. The course equips policymakers, economists, and professionals with the tools to interpret macroeconomic trends, diagnose labour market challenges, and design context-sensitive responses. This year's edition offers a structured, practice-oriented learning journey that explores the interlinkages between macroeconomic stability, labour market inclusion, structural transformation, skills development, and technological innovation, guiding participants in crafting coherent policy responses for inclusive, job-rich growth.

1 World Economic Situation and Prospects 2025. Mid-year Update. United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA), 2025. Available at: <https://desapublications.un.org/file/21163/download>

2 World Employment and Social Outlook: May 2025 Update. Geneva: International Labour Office, 2024. © ILO. Available at https://www.ilo.org/sites/default/files/2025-05/WESOUUpdate_May2025_1.pdf

COURSE OBJECTIVES

The main objective of the course is to strengthen the capacities of policymakers and social partners in the design and implementation of macroeconomic, sectoral and labour market policies and strategies to foster robust and inclusive growth. The course equips participants to navigate unfolding crises while strategically advancing long-term structural transformation processes needed to address both the opportunities and challenges today. Through a better understanding on how fiscal, monetary, and exchange rate/debt policies work, participants will develop a deeper understanding of the macroeconomic and structural challenges that shape today's labour markets, including inflation, interest rate volatility, public debt, and global trade fragmentation. Through hands-on tools, they will identify sectoral priorities to support structural transformation and employment and align skills development systems with geopolitical and economic transitions. The course also explores how to leverage innovation and technology, particularly digitalization and AI, for inclusive productivity gains. Finally, it highlights the importance of institutional coordination and social dialogue to ensure coherence across economic and labour policies.

WHAT WILL I LEARN?

Through this course, participants will gain access to cutting-edge research, case studies, and policy tools that are essential for navigating the complex terrain of global economics. The course refers to the ILO's policy and normative instruments and its long-standing experience in research and technical advisory services to assist governments and social partners work towards employment goals, now adapted to the challenges of the ongoing context of uncertainty and geo-economic fragility.

Module 1: Macroeconomic Trends

This opening module examines current macroeconomic dynamics — including inflation, high interest rates, debt pressures, and trade disruptions — and their implications for growth and employment. It introduces pro-employment macroeconomic strategies and measures that integrate fiscal, monetary, and productive investment tools to support productive jobs, address inequality and support inclusive recovery and economic resilience in response to ongoing geo-economic fragility.

Module 2: Labour Market Issues

Building on the macro context, this module delves into the structure and performance of labour markets in a context of ongoing economic and geopolitical fragility. It explores key labour market challenges such as informality, wage inequality, labour income share, and gender inequalities. It addresses job quality, wage dynamics and labour market segmentation, laying the groundwork for identifying structural policy responses. It sets out the policy opportunities and challenges in supporting robust and inclusive job-rich growth by highlighting the links between labour market dynamics and macroeconomic and structural conditions.

Module 3: Sectoral Policies, Trade And Pathways To Structural Transformation

This module focuses on how sectoral strategies, industrial policy and trade can drive diversification and decent job creation. It will deal with and provide practical examples of analytical tools to identify potentially promising sectors for technological upgrading, export growth and employment generation. The module places particular emphasis on opportunities emerging from green and digital transitions, as well as on economic complexity and value chain integration.

Module 4: Skills For Resilience And Transformation

This module examines skills development systems in the context of evolving economic priorities. It will focus on how to make these systems more supportive of productive structural transformation, in addition to making them more responsive to the demands of rapid technological change, labour mobility and social inclusion.

Module 5: Innovation, Technology And Employment

This module explores how innovation and emerging digital technologies – especially artificial intelligence (AI) – are reshaping employment patterns, work organisation, and productivity, beyond automation. Building on previous modules, it examines how to leverage technological change for inclusive growth, focusing on both opportunities for job creation and risks of inequality, polarisation, and poor job quality. It assesses digital and AI exposure, identifies vulnerable occupations and demographic groups, and discusses policy options to promote responsible AI adoption, support affected workers, and ensure equitable access to productivity gains.

Module 6: From Theory To Practice: Implementing Coordinated Policies For Job Creation

This module will discuss how to ensure the effective and coordinated implementation of the different policy interventions highlighted during the course, including through the critical role of social dialogue in promoting a sustained job-rich and inclusive economy.

WHO ATTENDS THIS COURSE?

The course is of particular interest to policy-makers, planners, technical officials of relevant ministries, and other technical experts from relevant institutions with basic economic understanding of economic principles. In particular, the course caters for policy advisors and practitioners from ministries of labour and employment, finance, economy and planning, sectoral ministries, central banks, social partners, researchers and policy analysts from international, regional and national organisations, academia and donor organisations who are seeking an advanced training on economic policies. A gender-balanced participation is sought.

FORMAT AND METHODOLOGY

This course is offered fully online through the ITCILO e-Campus platform. Furthermore, the course offers options for live debate and discussions through online webinars, which provide an optional opportunity for engaging with experts and peers.

Each module combines online materials, one weekly webinar delivered by ILO experts and ITCILO facilitators and offline learning activities to allow participants dive deeper into each topic and share with their peers.

The course entails also the completion of an assignment focusing on translating diagnostics into practical, context-specific policy strategies, that will be assessed by the ITCILO course team at the end of the course.

A certificate of achievement will be issued for participants who complete the following criteria:

- At least 90% attendance of live webinars and completion of offline learning activities.
- Completion of the final assignment and successful assessment, with a pass grade of 60%.

LANGUAGE

The course will be delivered in English.

REGISTRATION

Find the application form at <https://oarf2.itcilo.org/DST/A9718153/en> and apply before **19 September 2025**.

COST OF PARTICIPATION

The course is fee-paying. **Tuition:** €1,165

ITCILO will offer a limited number of fellowships which may cover part of the tuition fee. If eligible, early applicants will be given priority. Please make sure to apply at earliest convenience before the above mentioned deadline.

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

International Training Centre of the ILO
Employment Policy and Analysis Programme (EPAP)
Viale Maestri del Lavoro, 10
10127 Turin – Italy

economics@itcilo.org
www.itcilo.org

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