



## Call for Papers

Maastricht Observatory for Responsible, Resilient and Sustainable Societies, Economies and Enterprises  
5th Annual Conference 2025

### **Track: Labor market resilience and sustainability - Good labor, migration and HR practices**

Maastricht, the Netherlands, 22-23-24 October 2025

#### **Track Chairs:**

Frank Cörvers, Katrin Marchand

#### **Description of the track**

An aging and dejuvenating population in Western societies raises questions around how to fill current and future vacancies in government and businesses in many sectors and regions of the economy. Possible solutions to the shortage of skilled workers can be found in simply raising wages or introducing labor-saving technologies. Other ways to fill the most in-demand vacancies include providing better study advice to young people, engaging the current workforce in lifelong development activities to keep them up-to-date, or preventing employee attrition through better HR policies. Furthermore, attracting and selecting migrants can also alleviate personnel shortages. Finally, de-growth and sectoral shifts away from sectors that exhibit many negative externalities with regard to sustainability may imply the labor currently employed in those sectors may become available for use in remaining, more sustainable, sectors.

#### **Examples of relevant research questions**

- How can we promote labor-saving technologies to alleviate labor shortages?
- How can we increase labor productivity without adversely affecting the workforce?
- What migration and regional policies are appropriate to address labor shortages or stimulate employment growth?
- What HR policies work to keep staff up-to-date and prevent attrition?

- How can de-growth and sectoral shifts away from unsustainable sectors free up labor for use in remaining sectors?

## References:

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- Cörvers, F., Reinold, J., Chakkar, S., Bolzonella, F., & Ronda, V. (2021). *Literature review labour migration*. ROA. ROA Technical Reports No. 005, ROA External Reports Vol. WODC rapport No. 3248. <https://doi.org/10.26481/umarot.2021005>
- Cörvers, F., & Mayhew, K. (2021). Regional inequalities: causes and cures. *Oxford Review of Economic Policy*, 37(1), 1-16. <https://doi.org/10.1093/oxrep/graa067>
- Gerards, R., & Welters, R. (2022). Job search in the presence of a stressor: does financial hardship change the effectiveness of job search? *Journal of Economic Psychology*. Vol. 90. 102508, pp. 1-14. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.joep.2022.102508>
- Gregory, T., Salomons, A., & Zierahn, U. (2022). Racing With or Against the Machine? Evidence on the Role of Trade in Europe, *Journal of the European Economic Association*, 20(2), pp. 869–906. <https://doi.org/10.1093/jeea/jvab040>
- Loschmann, C., Bilgili, O., & Siegel, M. (2019). Considering the benefits of hosting refugees: evidence of refugee camps influencing local labour market activity and economic welfare in Rwanda, *IZA Journal of Development and Migration*, 9(5). <https://doi.org/10.1186/s40176-018-0138-2>

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The deadline for submissions is **17 August, 2025**.

All submissions **must use the submission procedure** on the webpage otherwise they will not be considered for review.

**Submit your paper writing to** [morse-sbe@maastrichtuniversity.nl](mailto:morse-sbe@maastrichtuniversity.nl) .

The registration for the MORSE conference 2025 will be open **until 21 September, 2025**.

Register **clicking on the green button** – when active - on the conference homepage, and in case of problems write to [morse-sbe@maastrichtuniversity.nl](mailto:morse-sbe@maastrichtuniversity.nl)