

**SIXTH INTERNATIONAL
ASTRIL CONFERENCE**

**THE LABOUR MARKET IN A
TIME OF CRISIS, INFLATION
AND DEGLOBALISATION**

19 - 20 JANUARY 2023

SCUOLA DI ECONOMIA E STUDI AZIENDALI
VIA SILVIO D'AMICO 77, ROMA

BLENDING MODE (LOCALISED AND VIRTUAL)

CALL FOR PAPERS

After two years marked by the Covid-19 pandemic crisis, the war in Ukraine and the strong upswing in commodity and energy prices have fuelled further concerns over international financial stability and prospects for economic growth. How to tackle inflation, economic stagnation, further social polarisation, the restructuring of value chains and increasing private and public debts are all topics that are at the centre of current economic policy debates and dilemmas, the answers to which will affect the population's living standards in the near future. In particular, the issue of how to minimise the fall in income growth and defend the purchasing power of wages against inflation has replaced the worry over the last fifteen years over deflation driving economic policies. The *Sixth International ASTRIL Conference* aims to bring together works in these fields on both theoretical and empirical grounds. Contributions in the following topics are particularly welcome:

1. Wages, inflation and collective bargaining: In advanced countries, a reform in the process of collective bargaining and structure of work contracts was already needed before the recent upswing in prices due to the decoupling of changes in labour productivity and real wages over the last decades and due to changes in the content of jobs and the degree of workers' autonomy fostered by technological changes. This reform is still more urgent nowadays after the upswing in actual and expected inflation rates: how to defend real wages without triggering a wage-price spiral will be one of the main economic policy issues over the next few years.

2. Macroeconomic perspectives: Despite the expected fall in output growth, central banks are reacting to the upswing in prices by raising interest rates based on the assumption that a restraint on the demand side is needed to contain increasing inflation. While the question is open as to whether other economic policy instruments would be more suitable to fight cost inflation, the rise in interest rates will negatively affect private and public debt sustainability and will narrow available fiscal spaces due to the increase in the cost of the service of the public debt. This is occurring precisely when in advanced countries fiscal authorities need to plan or have already planned a reduction in taxes and/or an increase in transfers and military and social expenditure

in order to minimise the impact on real incomes of the worsening in terms of trade and help Ukrainian war efforts. In Europe, the size of this narrowing of available fiscal spaces is different for periphery and core countries, and this calls again, as during the pandemic, for a change in the European Treaties in order to avoid a deepening of macroeconomic imbalances and help the implementation at European level and in each country of industrial policies that are able to face the ecological crisis, geographical disparities and a slowdown in labour productivity. Contributions are welcome on how to reform European Treaties and European economic perspectives according to different economic policies and the implementation of the *Next Generation EU* plans.

3. Structural changes and the labour market: In addition to the worsening of growth prospects, over the next years the European labour market will be affected by structural changes in the weights of the various sectors and the type and amount of skilled and unskilled jobs as a consequence of further automation processes, the implementation of the *Next Generation EU* plans and deglobalisation. The effects of these changes on the amount of labour unemployment and underemployment have still to be investigated together with the content and funding of public schemes able to guarantee full employment and a decent standard of living for all the European population.

4. The reshaping of the welfare systems: The recent crises have shown the centrality of public health service and income support measures. This implies rethinking the relationship between the private and public supply of essential services and the degree of universalism of the welfare system.

Deadlines	Abstracts and session proposals (300-500 words):	20 November 2022
	Notification of acceptance:	30 November 2022
	Submission of papers:	30 December 2022

Please write the topic that the paper refers to (1, 2, 3, 4) in the abstract and send the abstract and session proposal (4 papers at least) to: astril@uniroma3.it