



EMPLOYMENT POLICY

FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS SYMPOSIUM ON EMPLOYMENT IMPACT ASSESSMENTS (EMPIA)

MEASURING MORE AND BETTER JOBS THROUGH STRENGTHENED
PROJECT-LEVEL DATA COLLECTION

6 – 7 OCTOBER 2026
TURIN, ITALY

Information Note



International
Labour
Organization



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STRENGTHEN



International Training Centre

BACKGROUND

STRENGTHEN is a joint initiative of the European Union and the International Labour Organization (ILO) that promotes the use of Employment Impact Assessments (EmpIA) to help investments create more and better jobs. It seeks to strengthen the systematic integration of employment considerations into investment project design, decision-making and implementation.

Since 2020, the ILO has convened an annual symposium with international financial institutions, development finance institutions and multilateral development banks. Six previous editions have provided a trusted space to exchange practice, align approaches and strengthen collaboration on issues including employment quality, longer-term effects, indirect and induced employment, and green jobs.

The seventh symposium will focus on a shared operational challenge: the availability of reliable project-level data for assessing employment effects. Although many institutions have strengthened their approaches to measuring employment impacts, the employment and expenditure data needed for robust assessment are often difficult to collect, structure, validate and manage. Reporting requirements must also remain proportionate and workable for clients, contractors and project implementers.

The FI Symposium will be held back-to-back with the Global Forum on Employment Impact Assessment, with the two events overlapping for half a day. These exchanges with officials from client and donor countries will provide a valuable opportunity for financial institutions and government representatives to exchange perspectives on the role of EmpIA in investment decision-making. The Symposium will then continue in its usual closed technical format, allowing financial institutions, development partners, the ILO and selected external experts to examine operational constraints candidly, share emerging practice and identify feasible areas for joint work.

OBJECTIVES

The Symposium will provide a forum for practical exchange and collaboration on how to strengthen the project-level data that underpin EmpIA. It will specifically seek to:

- Share current approaches to measuring the quantity and quality of employment generated through investment operations.
- Exchange practical experience in collecting and using project-level employment and expenditure data for EmpIA.
- Explore operationally feasible approaches to data collection, validation and management, including surveys, client and contractor reporting, administrative sources and digital systems.
- Examine how technological innovation, including artificial intelligence, can improve data quality, consistency and efficiency while reducing reporting burdens.
- Identify priorities for continued knowledge exchange, technical cooperation, pilot activities and collaboration among participating institutions.

STRUCTURE AND CONTENT

The Symposium will organize discussions around five connected technical sessions. Each session will combine short framing inputs with institutional experience, peer exchange and collaborative problem-solving.

Session 1: Measuring more and better jobs

Participants will examine the indicators and measurement approaches used to assess employment quantity and quality across the project cycle. Discussion will consider how employment information supports project appraisal, monitoring, reporting and accountability, as well as continuing challenges in measuring and validating outcomes, including forward employment effects.

Session 2: Project-level expenditure data for EmpIA

This session will focus on the expenditure information required to estimate economy-wide employment effects. Institutions will compare experience in obtaining expenditure breakdowns from clients and contractors, structuring data for modelling, addressing gaps and operational constraints, and balancing analytical needs with realistic reporting requirements.

Session 3: Practical approaches to employment data collection

Participants will explore how reliable employment information can be obtained from enterprises, contractors and project implementers. The exchange will consider reporting systems, enterprise and establishment surveys, administrative data and validation methods, with attention to feasibility, cost-effectiveness and data quality.

Session 4: Technology and innovation

The Symposium will consider how digital reporting systems, automated classification, artificial intelligence and other innovations can improve the collection, processing and management of project-level employment and expenditure data. Emerging applications and opportunities for wider use will be discussed.

Session 5: Future collaboration

The final session will draw together the main technical lessons and identify practical priorities for continued collaboration. Participants will consider common data needs, opportunities for pilot activities, future knowledge exchange and possible themes for engagement through an EmpIA Community of Practice.

KEY FEATURES

CLOSED AND SPECIALIZED

A technical exchange for development finance institutions, development partners, donors, the ILO and selected experts.

OPERATIONALLY FOCUSED

Discussion centred on real data requirements, reporting processes, constraints and feasible solutions.

COLLABORATIVE APPROACH

Some presentations and short interventions, combined with peer exchange, technical roundtables and joint problem-solving.

FORWARD-LOOKING

Attention to digital innovation, practical pilots, continued cooperation and shared learning beyond the event.

TARGET AUDIENCE

Participation will focus on institutions that finance development operations, support investment programmes or provide technical and financial cooperation. The Symposium is intended for:

- International financial institutions, multilateral development banks, development finance institutions and public development banks.
- Bilateral development agencies, donor institutions, European Union institutions and other development partners.
- Specialist teams working on operations, impact assessment, results measurement, monitoring and evaluation, data, research and employment.
- ILO specialists and selected external experts in employment statistics, survey design, modelling, digital systems and artificial intelligence.

WHAT PARTICIPANTS CAN EXPECT

- **Compare:** Current institutional practice in measuring employment quantity and quality and using project-level data.
- **Troubleshoot:** Common operational constraints affecting data collection, validation, management and use.
- **Explore:** Practical survey, reporting and digital approaches, including emerging applications of artificial intelligence.
- **Collaborate:** Priority areas for technical cooperation, pilot activities and continued exchange through the EmpIA Community of Practice.

METHODOLOGY

The Symposium will use a closed-group, highly interactive format designed for technical exchange rather than formal instruction. Short expert inputs and institutional examples will provide a common basis for facilitated roundtables, focused peer discussion and collaborative analysis of operational challenges.

Where useful, ITCILO facilitation methods such as live polling, visual mapping, small-group consultations, case clinics and collaborative synthesis may be used to surface common issues, compare workable approaches and capture priorities for follow-up. Participants will be invited to contribute practical experience from their own institutions.

EXPECTED OUTPUTS

- A concise synthesis of the main conclusions and practical lessons emerging from the Symposium.
- Identification of priority areas for future technical collaboration and knowledge exchange.
- Discussion of potential pilot activities and joint initiatives to strengthen project-level data for EmpIA.
- Launch and consolidation of the EmpIA Community of Practice, as a space for continued knowledge exchange and collaboration among participating institutions.

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.

INFO

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT

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