

ISABEL NEWSLETTER #3

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Welcome to the 3rd edition of the ISABEL newsletter!

Over the 16 past months, the ISABEL project has been actively moving forward, with partners working across research, data collection and Living Lab activities that bring us closer to our first results. In this edition, we take you through the latest developments of the project, highlighting key progress areas and giving you a clearer picture of what is currently taking shape and what lies ahead.

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Shaping the ISABEL Research Framework

Understanding Labour Market Transformation

WP2 has now completed most of its planned deliverables, further strengthening the scientific foundations of the ISABEL project. The work explored how the green and digital transitions are reshaping labour markets across Europe, highlighting both emerging opportunities and potential employment disruption across sectors and regions.

The findings show growing demand in areas such as renewable energy, circular economy, digital technologies and AI-driven occupations, alongside declining employment in carbon-intensive and routine-based jobs. The research also identified important gaps in existing European data and methodologies related to Job Creation and Destruction (JCD), underlining the need for more integrated and evidence-based approaches to understanding labour market transformation.



Building the ISABEL Conceptual & Methodological Approach

Building on research findings, the consortium further developed the ISABEL conceptual framework for studying labour market transformation across regions, industries and socio-economic groups.

Through co-creation activities and stakeholder engagement, ISABEL has adopted an approach that considers the geographically uneven effects of the green and digital transitions, recognising that labour market changes differ significantly across places and communities. This work also supports the development of the ISABEL research ecosystem and platform architecture, combining social science research, data-driven analysis and AI-enabled technologies to support evidence-based policy and labour market intelligence.

***Understanding
how transitions
reshape jobs,
skills and
regions.***

Progress so far...

Research & Data Collection in progress

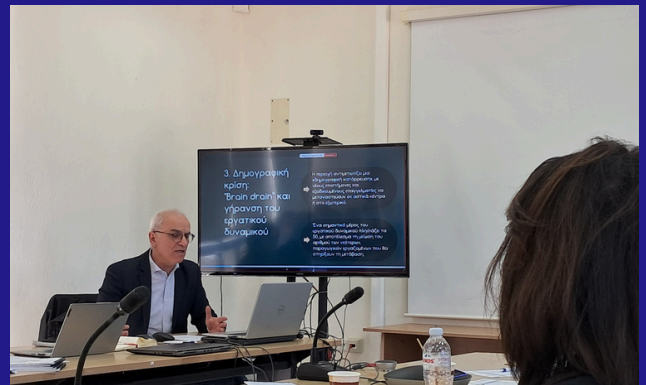
As part of the ongoing research activities, primary data collection is currently being carried out across all partner countries through specialized research firms, ensuring national-level representation and methodological rigor. Fieldwork has already been successfully completed in Greece and Denmark, while the process continues in the remaining regions. The research aims to gather data from 400 enterprises and 800 individuals per partner country, including 700 employed individuals and 100 people currently seeking work, selected according to criteria such as age and regional distribution.

The survey is being conducted through a mixed-method approach of telephone interviews and online surveys. The individual employees questionnaires map transitions between sectors and occupations by comparing participants' experiences in previous and current workplaces, with a particular focus on the circumstances of these transitions, motivations for changing employment, challenges in finding new work, and skills alignment. At the same time, the employers' survey focuses on job creation and job destruction over the past two years, sectoral and occupational differences, and how skill needs are being reshaped by the green and digital transitions.



Living Labs in Action

The ISABEL Living Labs are now actively underway across Sjælland, Western Macedonia, Silesia, North Eastern Scotland, Belgrade and Asturias, with interviews and stakeholder engagement activities progressing steadily across all participating regions. More than 65 interviews have already been conducted so far, while the Western Macedonia Living Lab officially launched with a kick-off meeting involving 44 regional stakeholders from across the quadruple helix.



Key findings:

- Significant skills mismatches and "brain drain" in regions undergoing transition
- Need for more tailored, place-based transition policies
- Importance of targeted regional needs assessment
- Need for stronger monitoring mechanisms to support policymaking



Progress so far...

Building the ISABEL Platform

The ISABEL platform is currently in an intensive development phase, with the team working at high speed to meet the upcoming first technical milestone. At this stage, the primary focus is on creating a robust and stable architectural skeleton designed to foster both established user requirements and the upcoming needs that typically rise during the development.

The core ecosystem is rapidly taking shape through the development of key tools, FAROROMO, SNAP, and DPWA, which together establish the essential gridline for all required platform assets.

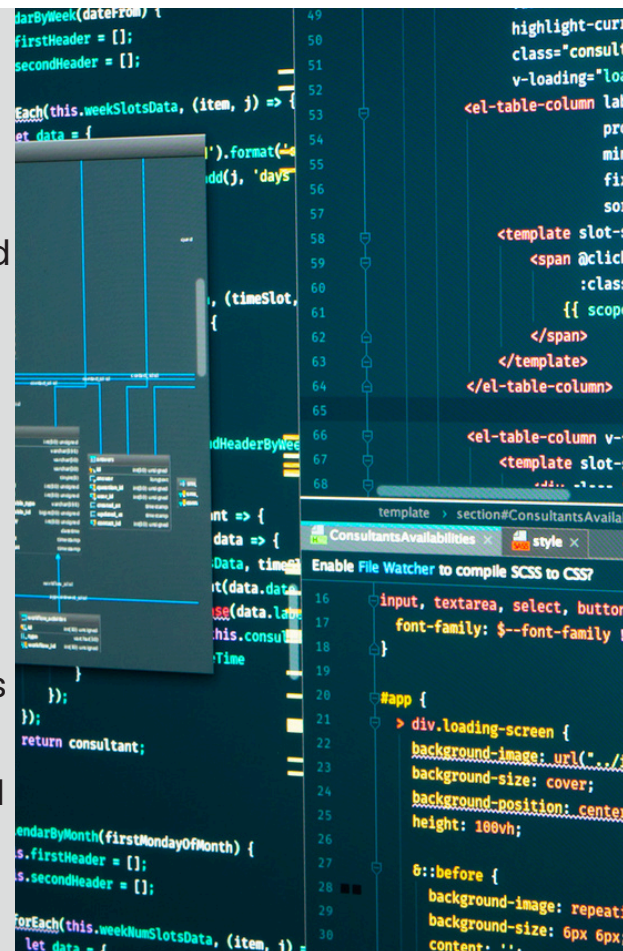
At the same time, the backend of the platform's backend is gradually converging with the frontend, and the ISABEL datalake is at its initial stage, ready to host the 3 layers of data that are expected (Bronze, Silver, Gold layers), that the medallion approach dictates. This foundational framework ensures that as the platform scales, it remains adaptable and ready for the complex functional layers to be implemented in the next steps.



Advancing the ISABEL Labour Market Database

The ISABEL project has developed a comprehensive dataset covering the period 2013–2023, offering detailed insights into labour market trends across regions, sectors and occupations. The data is structured at NUTS2 regional level, combined with NACE (2-digit) industry classifications and occupational information (ISCO 2-digit), ensuring consistency and comparability across countries.

Looking ahead, the dataset will be further expanded to include earlier years and additional dimensions such as gender, education and migration background. These enhancements will support more in-depth analysis and a better understanding of labour market dynamics and inequalities.





Looking Ahead

As ISABEL moves forward, the project is entering a particularly exciting phase, where ongoing work begins to translate into concrete outputs and practical applications.

The coming months will mark a key transition, as the consortium prepares to share its first results and tools with the wider community. These developments will open the way for early engagement, allowing users to explore and interact with ISABEL's solutions.

Very soon, our community will have the opportunity to be among the first to access and test these tools, contributing valuable feedback that will support their further refinement and development.

Key priorities for the next period

- Secondary Data Collection Report
- Initial ISABEL Data Lake
- Researcher Tool for Personalised Datasets
- First FAROROM Observatory
- First ISABEL Platform

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Isabel Horizon



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