



PRESS RELEASE

ISABEL REACHES THE HALFWAY POINT WITH FIRST DIGITAL TOOLS FOR EUROPEAN REGIONAL LABOUR MARKET INTELLIGENCE

Regional labour markets across Europe are being transformed by the green and digital transitions, creating new employment opportunities, while also threatening specific tasks, thereby more widely reshaping industries, occupations and skills. Eighteen months after its launch, the Horizon Europe ISABEL project has successfully completed the first half of its implementation, moving from conceptual and methodological work to the delivery of the first versions of its digital research and policy-support tools, which all will enable the generation of valuable insights on the transition-driven regional labour market transformation.

During this first phase, the project established a multidimensional, comprehensive, and co-created conceptual framework for analysing job creation and destruction, skills shortages and regional labour market transformation. It identified industries, occupations and skills that are likely to face either increased risks or new opportunities, while reviewing research methods and policy approaches against job destruction to better understand how labour markets are changing across Europe.

Building on this scientific foundation, ISABEL has now delivered the first components of its integrated digital research ecosystem, a unique research platform that integrates AI tools into social science research methods to explore regional Job Creation and Destruction (JCD) in the context of the green and digital transitions. These first versions will continue to evolve through additional data, analytical capabilities and stakeholder feedback during the second half of the project, bringing closer social sciences and information technology science.

A major milestone is the **ISABEL Platform**, the project's central digital environment that integrates labour market data, artificial intelligence, document processing and visualisation services within a secure and scalable infrastructure. Designed with transparency and data security in mind, the platform enables researchers and policymakers to access and analyse information through a single environment while ensuring that data remain within the European research infrastructure.

The project has also released the first version of **SNAP (Smart oNe-stop digitAI data shoP)**, a research environment that supports the creation and analysis of customised labour market datasets. SNAP enables researchers to explore scientific literature, process structured and unstructured data and generate tailored datasets through user-friendly interfaces while maintaining full transparency of the analytical process.

Another important achievement is the first version of **FAROROMO (FAir gReen transitiOn of Regional labOur Markets Observatory)**. Through interactive maps, dashboards and visual analytics, FAROROMO allows users to explore how job creation and destruction evolve across European regions and supports a better understanding of the geographically uneven effects of the green and digital transitions.

Supporting these tools, a new, unique and detailed **European regional labour market database** has been created that capture gross job creation and destruction, providing a much more detailed picture of labour market restructuring than conventional employment statistics. At the same time, the project has developed the first version of its web crawlers, which automatically collect labour market intelligence from online job advertisements, policy documents, scientific publications, patent databases and official statistics.

Alongside the technical developments, ISABEL is conducting large-scale questionnaire surveys with workers and employers in Denmark, Greece, Poland, Serbia, Spain and the United Kingdom. These surveys examine employment history and transitions, recruitment practices and changing skill needs, providing valuable evidence that complements the project's secondary data analysis.

Stakeholder engagement remains central to the project. The six Living Labs that were established earlier in the project in Sjælland (Denmark), Asturias (Spain), Silesia (Poland), Northeast Scotland (United Kingdom), Belgrade (Serbia) and Western Macedonia (Greece), are further deployed, bringing together researchers, policymakers, education providers, employers, workers public authorities and other regional stakeholders through interviews, focus groups, workshops and co-creation activities. Their forthcoming feedback will support the further improvement and validation of the ISABEL Platform, SNAP, FAROROMO and the forthcoming Digital Policy Writer Assistant.

The project has also established a comprehensive ethical, legal and societal framework covering data protection, artificial intelligence and the involvement of human participants. This ensures that all project activities are carried out in line with European principles of transparency, inclusiveness and responsible innovation.

As ISABEL enters its second half, the focus shifts towards validation and further development. The project's first digital tools will be tested with stakeholders across the six Regional Living Labs, while analytical insight, forecasting capabilities, and policy-support services will be progressively integrated into the platform. These activities will ensure that the final ISABEL ecosystem responds to real user needs and provides practical support for labour market analysis and evidence-informed, place-based policymaking across Europe.

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