

Global Agenda Council on Employment 2012-2014



Understanding/Context

Despite the incipient recovery from the global economic crisis, unemployment rates remain high and the effects will be long-lasting in terms of deskilling, even if economic growth picks up. Unemployment will remain high in many countries. In addition, the already existing challenges of skills mismatches will continue to increase, especially given the speed of technological change and the internationalization of global supply chains.

Shaping the Agenda

The main challenge in employment is the generation of new job opportunities in the current economic context to avoid deskilling and improve the matching of available skills to market needs. Governments, businesses and civil society (e.g. trade unions) need to be more involved.

“Despite the incipient recovery from the global economic crisis, unemployment rates remain high and the effects will be long-lasting in terms of deskilling, even if economic growth picks up”

The Global Agenda Council on Employment will provide an analytical report that will show the severity of the unemployment situation, highlighting the connection between economic growth and fiscal sustainability. The situation will not necessarily improve despite the tenuous economic recovery, as the effects will be long-lasting. Thus, the need is to refocus the economic agenda on job creation. In addition, the work of the Council will provide a set of recommendations for governments and businesses to address some of the most severe sources of skills mismatches (e.g. shortages

and over- and under-qualification) that hinder the structural capacity of societies to maximize existing human capital. In the coming months, the Council will disseminate the results of the report in different forums (e.g. the World Economic Forum Annual Meeting 2014, the Forum’s regional meetings and the G20) to raise awareness of the recommendations that have been proposed by the Council.

After the end of the Council’s term, an important task will be to better shape and refine the different dimensions of inclusive growth.

Contact Information

Research Analyst: Mehran Gul, Senior Knowledge Manager, Global Agenda Councils, mehran.gul@weforum.org

Council Manager: Beñat Bilbao, Associate Director and Senior Economist, Global Benchmarking Network, benat.bilbao@weforum.org

Forum Lead: Jennifer Blanke, Lead Economist, Senior Director, Head of the Global Competitive Network, jennifer.blanke@weforum.org