

Technology, Labor Markets, and Shared Prosperity

Summer Roundtable on Automation, AI, and the Future of Work in Europe

DATE Wednesday, 2 July 2026 **TIME** 9:00 – 13:30 **VENUE** Department of Economic Policy, 4B.26, Faculty of Economics and Finance, EUBA.

Morning Sessions

9:00 – 9:30

Registration & Get Together

Robots and the Wedge between Wages and Productivity: A European Analysis **9:30 – 10:00**

Martin Lábaj (Dept. of Economic Policy, NHF, EUBA)

How the adoption of industrial robots drives a wedge between labor productivity growth and real wage growth across European economies.

New Technologies and the US Labor Market **11:00 – 11:30**

Francesco Roncone (Dept. of Economic Policy, NHF, EUBA)

How the adoption of new technologies reshapes employment and labor market outcomes in the United States.

AI innovation and the labor share in European regions **10:00 – 10:30**

Klaus Prettnner (Vienna University of Economics and Business — WU Wien)

How the development of Artificial Intelligence (AI) affects the distribution of income between capital and labor, and how these shifts contribute to regional income inequality.

Expertise Divergence between Europe and the US **11:30 – 12:00**

Tomáš Oleš (Dept. of Economic Policy, NHF, EUBA)

Ongoing work on how the concentration and allocation of expertise across occupations and sectors differs between Europe and the United States.

10:30 – 11:00

Coffee Break

12:00 – 13:00

Lunch

Afternoon Session

Project Meeting & Closing Remarks

Project team

Review of the *ProWageAut* project outcomes led by Klaus Prettnner (WU Vienna) and the project team at the Department of Economic Policy, EUBA. Discussion of working papers on robot adoption and the productivity–wage gap, AI innovation and the labor income share in European regions, and follow-up research directions.

13:00 – 13:30

ABOUT THE PROJECT

The *ProWageAut* project (*Stagnant Wages in the Face of Rising Labour Productivity: The Role of Automation Technologies*) was led by Klaus Prettnner (WU Vienna) and hosted at the Department of Economic Policy, EUBA. The project developed a multi-country, multi-sector theoretical model explaining how industrial robots and AI drive a growing wedge between labor productivity and wages, and tested its predictions on harmonised European data spanning 1995–2020. The first strand produced a tractable model in which robots substitute for routine labor and showed—using instrumental variable estimates based on robot trends in the US, South Korea, and New Zealand—that robot adoption causally widened the productivity–wage gap, particularly in economically important sectors. The second strand examined how geographically concentrated AI innovation reshaped the labor income share across European regions. The findings point to the need for investment in human capital, broader diffusion of innovation, and inclusive labor market policies to address the rising regional and skill-based inequalities driven by automation.



Funded by the
European Union
NextGenerationEU

