



International  
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## Global Conference and Network of Policy Research on Youth Transitions

The Graduate Institute, Geneva, 20-21 February 2020

### I. Background

The youth employment question has become a global policy issue on the world stage, since the global financial crisis of 2007/8 and the 2011/12 Arab uprisings. These crises through their disproportionate, lasting and multi-faceted impact on young women and men, point to structural changes that are at work in a globalized world making youth transitions more difficult and uncertain. The widening gap between youth aspirations and expectations and the realities they face shape youth transitions from school to work, as well as their participation in political and societal spheres.

Various research studies, surveys and policy reports by local and international institutions, attempt to analyze the depth, multiple dimensions and significant implications of these changes for the future of work, for inclusive and sustainable development and for political stability in different global and local contexts. **The Conference** will provide a forum to critically review the state of knowledge and evidence on youth transitions and to renew the policy research agenda. The launch of the first **Global Network of Policy Research on Youth Transitions**, on the same occasion, aims at filling the knowledge and research gaps on critical issues identified, through cooperation among various academic and research institutions.

In the challenging economic, technological, political and social contexts, it also aims at fostering more and better evidence-based policy innovations and improving the effectiveness and governance of research and policy interface.

At the global level, the 2030 Development Agenda and its 17 Goals provide a platform for converging action by policy makers and multiple stakeholders across the world. Youth transitions are central across this agenda. The most recent progress reviews show however, the slow progress in the achievement of targets.

[The Global Initiative on Decent Jobs for Youth](#), a UN-led initiative coordinated by ILO and launched in 2016, under the aegis of this Development Agenda, is forging an inclusive multi-stakeholder partnership to scale up action and impact on youth employment and the school to work dimension of youth transitions.

The 2030 SDG framework and the Global initiative emphasize the critical importance of evidence-based policy making and invite the academic and research community to engage proactively.

### II. The Global Conference on Policy Research on Youth Transitions, The Graduate Institute, Geneva, 20-21 February 2020

The two days Conference on interdisciplinary Policy Research on Youth Transitions (Geneva, 20-21 February 2020) will bring together **academia, researchers and think tanks**, from global North and South, working on youth policies across disciplines, with policy and action partners, including government,

international organizations, private sector and civil society. The Conference is organized with the support of ILO, multi-stakeholder partners of the Global Initiative on Decent Jobs for Youth and several academic and research institutions interested in the creation, dissemination and use of policy relevant research on youth transitions.

**Multiple dimensions of youth transitions including transitions from school to work; conflict and peace; civic and political participation will be examined.** The Conference agenda will include two segments. In the first public segment, through plenary and parallel panels, the latest knowledge on selected themes of highest policy relevance for youth transitions will be presented and debated. Each panel will identify gaps for further research and pathways for bridging evidence with action. The thematic discussions in the first segment of the Conference are open to a broad audience. Interested participants need to [register](#).

### III. The Global Network of Policy Research on Youth Transitions

In order to address the gaps in knowledge, to continuously review and renew the policy research agenda and strengthen the linkage between research and policy, the creation of a Global Network of Policy Research, supported by a hub at the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies in Geneva, is underway. The Network aims at an inclusive and global outreach of academia, researchers and think tanks who work on youth transition issues in the global South and North, East and West. The objective of the Global Network is threefold: 1) to connect dispersed sources of policy research undertakings, 2) to promote further independent research and understanding of youth transitions critical for policy and action and 3) to influence global and national policy making. In the second segment, invited participants from the academic and research community and key partners will meet to review a concept note on the vision, foundation and strategy of the Global Network. Following the launch, the Global Network will actively welcome further contributions and expanded partnership through modalities that will be announced later.

For partnership and collaboration, please contact Azita Berar Awad, Senior Fellow at the Graduate institute of International and Development Studies ([azita.berar@graduateinstitute.ch](mailto:azita.berar@graduateinstitute.ch)).

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