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**CALL FOR PAPERS**

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**Youth unemployment and joblessness:  
causes, consequences, responses**

ADAPT international conference series on  
*Productivity, Investment in Human Capital  
and the Challenge of Youth Employment*

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Organized by  
**ADAPT & UNAM**  
on 29 and 30 August 2011

*at the Instituto de Investigaciones Jurídicas de la UNAM  
Circuito Maestro Mario de la Cueva s/n,  
Ciudad Universitaria, CP. 04510, D.F., (México)*

Young people unemployment and joblessness are major issues for national governments and international organizations across the globe. In this respect, the school-to-work transition challenge is increasingly raising the interest of companies, education and training institutions, families and young people themselves, who are often involved in precarious and illegal forms of employment, in many countries of the world. In the field of industrial and labour relations, the school-to-work perspective seems particularly suitable for policy formulation and assessment: the broad and complex range of tools, strategies and policies for enabling youth training and their access to the labour market is deserving of a closer analysis at an international level in a time when jobless recovery threatens national economies.

The conference, which is part of ADAPT international events on productivity, investment in human capital and the challenge of youth employment, aims at attaining a better understanding of the causes, consequences and possible responses to the issue in a global dimension through an interdisciplinary and comparative approach.

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**ADAPT and the UNAM invite professors, researchers, doctoral students, experts, practitioners and all those interested in the conference topics, from the perspectives of multiple disciplines – including, but not limited to, economics, sociology, political science, labour and employment law, industrial relations, and human resource studies – to present contributions reflecting on the issues of this conference.**

**Papers should be devoted to one of the following tracks:**

**(i) What have we learned over the past two decades about the nature of youth labour market problems?**

Research and debate about youth employment have developed in the last twenty years, thanks to the contribution of different disciplines, including economics, labour and industrial relations law, and pedagogy. Despite major findings, broad and complex research questions remain open, in light of the ongoing changing nature of work. Papers for this session should offer an original elaboration of the state of art in the field of youth employment studies and propose perspectives and hints for new research and analysis in this field.

**(ii) The contribution of education and training to the employability of youth**

Although human capital theory and sociological evidence show a positive correlation between investments in education and employment prospects, education and training contribution to youth employability differs considerably from one country to another, with significant results on employment and unemployment rates. This session also discusses: on the one hand, the role and function of industrial relations, which need to make a contribution to revamp education and training, while closing the traditional gap between school and work. On the other hand, the way and the extent to which school-to-work institutions can protect youths from adverse demand shifts.

**(iii) Transition from education to the labour market: what makes for better transitions?**

A wide array of tools, strategies, policies, programs try to address the difficult phase of the school-to-work transition, at the upper secondary and tertiary level. Papers for this conference track should present examples, national case studies, best practices in an international and comparative perspective, highlighting the institutional differences from one country to the other and the factors leading to success. Particular value will be recognized to presentations addressing the need of rethinking the perspective of the school-to-work transition, providing lawmakers and industrial relations actors with the means to identify legal and institutional measures for tackling the complex issues of youth employment.

**(iv) Apprenticeship and flexible contractual patterns for young people**

This session analyses the problem of youth employment, by focusing on the contractual arrangements under which young people enter the labour market. Among other flexible solutions, apprenticeship is one of the oldest and most effective tools in many countries for ensuring effective transition, and even integration, between education, training, and working world. Papers should propose for innovative perspectives on these topics or alternatively collect data on youth employment, by different employment contracts. A number of challenges related to apprenticeships should be analysed, such as the effects of globalisation on their local nature; or, how do, and should, countries decide between investment in apprenticeships and in higher (university) education and, finally, how can pathways from apprenticeship to higher education be forged with due regard for differences in pedagogy.

### On-line abstracts submission: instructions

The procedure for abstract submission is on-line. Before starting, you must be registered at the conference system. To register, you need to create an account for the on-line cooperation area *Conference ADAPT-UNAM Mexico City 2011* at <http://moodle.adapt.it/mexico2011>.

1. Go at <http://moodle.adapt.it>;
2. choose your preferred language (top right);
3. click on Login (top right);
4. create your new account;
5. once you create your account, click in *Continue* and then log in;
6. enter in *Conference ADAPT-UNAM Mexico City 2011*;
7. enrol in the course *Conference ADAPT-UNAM Mexico City 2011* (bottom left: click yes);
8. once you enter as a member in *Conference ADAPT-UNAM Mexico City 2011*, you will find the section *Abstract submission*: click on *Submit your abstract* and follow the instructions;
9. after the first login, you can visit the on-line cooperation area *Conference ADAPT-UNAM Mexico City 2011* at <http://moodle.adapt.it/mexico2011>. Here you can modify your abstract until the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2011.

On the online collaboration area you can find

- [a video to create an account](#);
- [a video to submit an abstract](#);

Abstracts failing to meet the procedure and the required information may not be considered.

All proposals will be subject to a competitive review process by the Scientific Committee.

Guidelines for final papers will be communicated to the authors of selected abstracts.

It is expected that the best papers, among those selected for the conference, will be published in a volume of ADAPT *Labour Studies* Series edited by Cambridge Scholars Publishing.

### Deadlines

Deadline for abstracts: **1<sup>st</sup> April 2011**.

Deadline for our confirmation: **15<sup>th</sup> April 2011**.

Deadline for your confirmation about your participation to the conference: **30<sup>th</sup> April 2011** (in order that you can secure financing, if available, to attend the conference).

Deadline for submission of papers for the conference: **15<sup>th</sup> July 2011**.

### Fees and expenses

Participation to the conference is free.

Accommodation expenses are covered by the organizers. Participants must cover their travel expenses, although a limited number of grants to cover travel costs will be available for selected participants.

In case of co-authorship, only one person, namely the author presenting the paper at the conference, will be reimbursed.

All information about reimbursement procedure will be published on the conference website. Authors will be reimbursed upon completion of their papers, if complying with scientific requirements set up by the Selection Committee.

#### **Further information**

Further details will be available at <http://moodle.adapt.it/mexico2011> and [www.adapt.it](http://www.adapt.it) (eventi).

For any queries, please contact the Conference Organizing Committee at [info@adapt.it](mailto:info@adapt.it).

We look forward to hearing from you.

Very best wishes,

*Alfredo Sanchez Castañeda and Michele Tiraboschi*