



Horizon Europe Launch Event – Focus on Africa initiative

Karolien Lenaerts
Virtual Meeting, 16 July 2021



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The UNTANGLED project

“Untangling the impacts of technological transformations, globalisation and demographic change to foster shared prosperity in Europe”

H2020 project launched under Call “Transformations-18-2020”

Europe in a changing world – inclusive, innovative and reflective societies

February 2021 – January 2024

Who we are

HIVA-KU Leuven (BE)

LISER (LU)

IBS (PL)

wiiw (AT)

ZSI (AT)

ESRI (IE)

UNIPG (IT)

POLIMI (IT)

UORL (FR)

RWI (DE)

IPLE-CASS (CN)

Fedesarollo (CO)

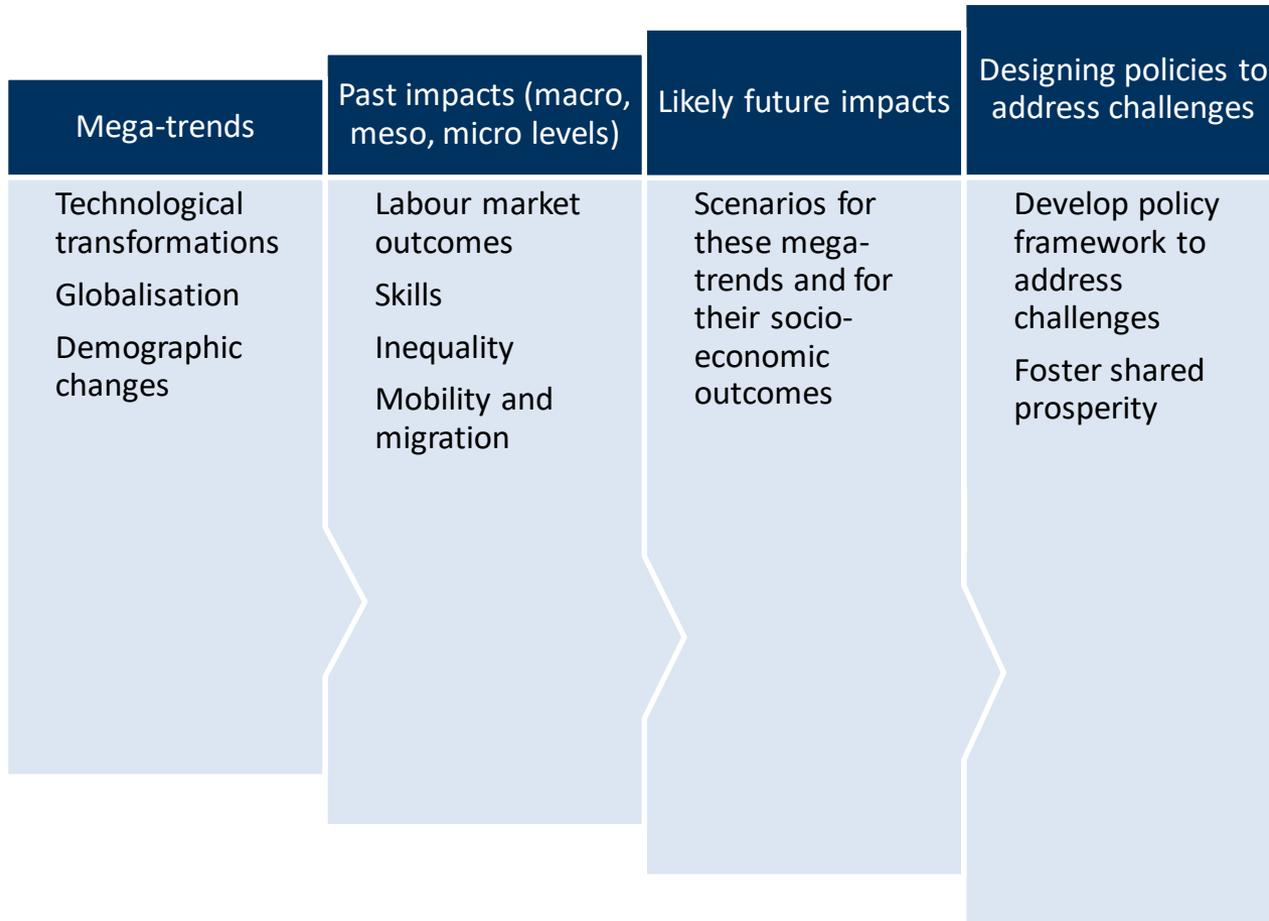
UCT (ZA)

Aldgate (PL)

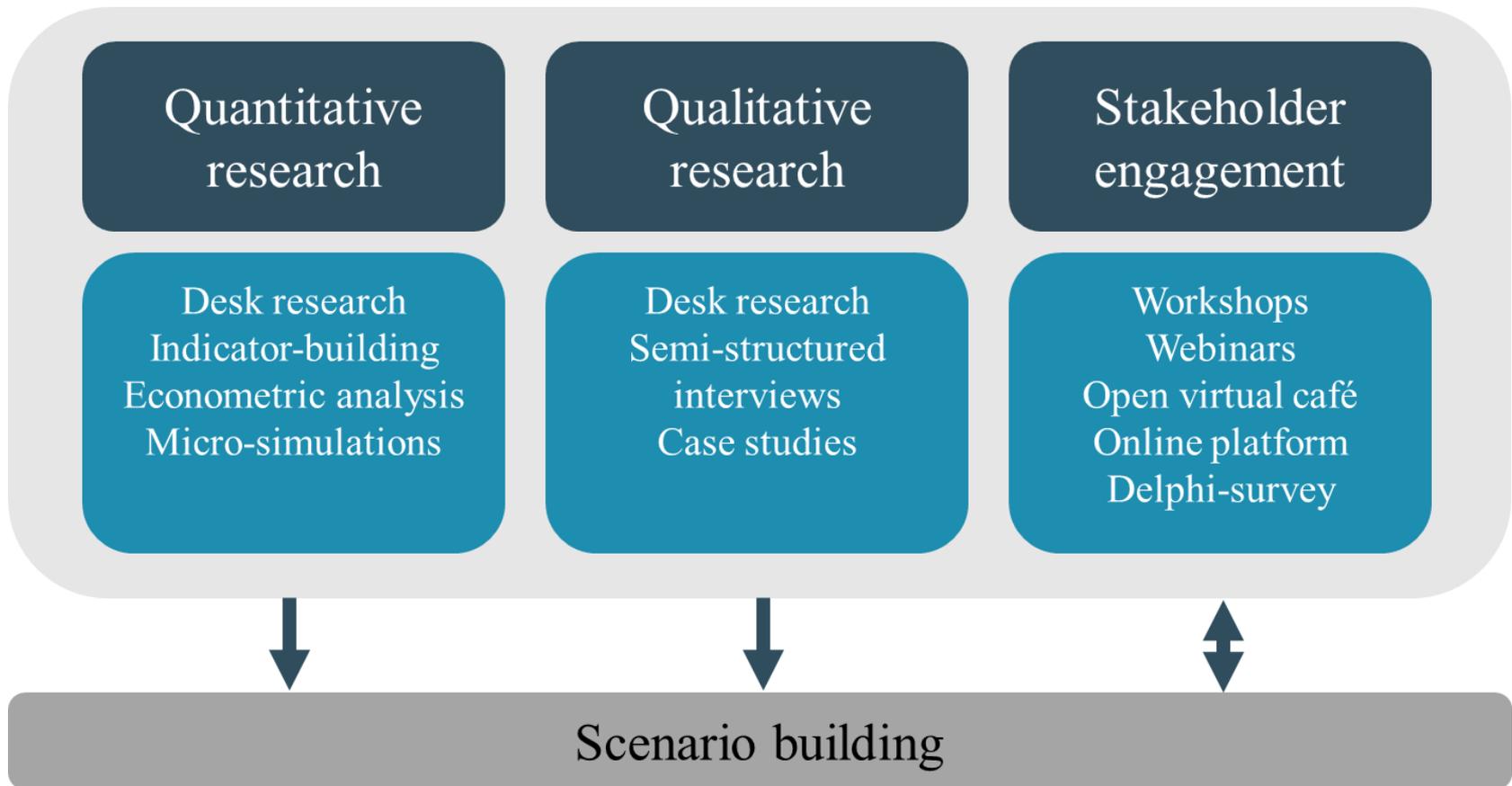
Why do we need the UNTANGLED project?

- Context: **three mega-trends:**
 - Technological transformations
 - Globalisation
 - Demographic changes
 - Create opportunities but also pose profound socio-economic challenges that still must be fully understood and addressed
 - These mega-trends have accelerated and will continue to do so
 - The mega-trends create winners and losers, shape inequality within and between countries, and require novel policy responses
- What are the individual and combined effects of these mega-trends, now and in the future? Who is (most) affected by these mega-trends?
 - How can these mega-trends best be managed to foster a shared prosperity?

UNTANGLED's building blocks



UNTANGLED's approach



Research outputs

18 Research papers
6 Research reports
5 Policy briefs
Infographics
Videos

Policy briefs will address how we can best:

- Strengthen job creation, improve job quality
- Upgrade skills and foster lifelong learning
- Tackle growing inequalities
- Support migration and labour mobility
- Make progress towards inclusion

Project events

6 Workshops
1 Mid-term conference
1 Final conference
Webinars/open virtual café

Workshops will cover the following topics:

- Global trends and variations by region, sector
- Employment: number and quality of changing and emerging jobs?
- Skill changes and the value of skills
- In(equalities)
- Data and knowledge sources: how to put the evidence to work?
- Policy measures and stakeholder strategies

Example of involvement of UCT

Task: “Challenges and opportunities from automation, labour supply and skills for the future of global value chains” (research paper)

- Characterise the **main challenges and opportunities** related to technological progress, demographic changes and the evolution of global value chains in key non-European regions, as well as their interactions with Europe.
- Combine **quantitative and qualitative methods to prepare comparative case studies** on Southern Africa, Latin America and China, delivered by the partners from South Africa, Colombia and China, respectively. We also cover United States/North America. While the US is likely to remain a technological leader for some time, Asia, Africa and Latin America are the three regions whose shares in global population and GDP will be rising in the next few decades. They will also play an increasing role in trade, investment and people flows, in particular South-South flows that circumvent Europe.
- These regions face substantial challenges driven by demography (population ageing in Asia and LAC, youth bulge in Africa), technological progress and globalisation which will likely shift their development pathways away from labour-intensive manufacturing towards more capital-intensive manufacturing and/or tradable services.
- The COVID-19 crisis will probably have a lasting impact on global value chains, as firms and countries are likely to diversify their value chains across more countries and regions.

Example of involvement of UCT (continued)

Task: “Assessing the quality of change from comparative case studies” (research paper)

- Gain insight into social **partners’**, **collective actors’** and **companies’ perceptions** of the impacts of technological change, globalisation and demographic trends and their strategies to address them.
- Conduct **13 case studies** in three strategically chosen (sub-)sectors (incl. manufacturing, business services, financial services). They will be investigated in 3-4 countries per sector.
- Case studies will address sectoral developments through desk research and interviews with national social partner and industry association representatives and company-level initiatives through interviews with management and worker representatives. The follow-up on existing examples extends the timeframe of research into workplace innovations, company and social partners initiatives.
- Tentative division of cases across partners:
 - manufacturing - KU Leuven, RWI, UNIPG and IPLE-CASS
 - business services – IBS, ESRI and UCT
 - financial services – LISER, ZSI and IPLE-CASS;
 - workplace innovation as a transversal issue – KU Leuven, ZSI and UCT

Stay in touch with UNTANGLED



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LAUNCHING UNTANGLED ON LABOUR DAY

More than 100 years ago, workers, employers and governments in the West were struggling with the effects of rapid industrialisation, urbanisation and demographic change including mass migration from the Old World. Their collective response to those challenges was far from a smooth process, and often descended into violence before the relative stability of workers' movements and labour unions emerged. The May Day workers' holiday was born as a part of that movement.

That makes 1 May a particularly appropriate day for the launch of UNTANGLED: two decades into the 21st century, European employers, governments and policy-makers are once again coping with the effects on the labour market of a series of globe-spanning trends. Just like the Industrial Revolution, mass immigration to America and 19th century workers' uprisings in Europe, today's challenges of globalization, technological change and migration are interconnected, reinforcing each other in ways that may not be immediately obvious.

Our project seeks to untangle those trends, examining their impact on labour markets in Europe and beyond. Based on a series of research papers and market scenarios, we will develop policy recommendations to help governments cushion the negative impacts of these trends, promoting fairness and prosperity for the people of Europe and beyond.

UNTANGLED is for both researchers and practitioners; our success depends on vigorous engagement by stakeholders from companies, civil society, academia and other areas. We hope you'll find this newsletter engaging and informative - and we invite you to subscribe as a first step toward contributing your voice and your unique perspective to UNTANGLED.



As we adapt to shifting pandemic-related restrictions, we're still putting the finishing touches to our schedule of events for the coming quarter. **Follow us on social media or check projectuntangled.eu to make sure you don't miss out!**

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