



BOCCONI-EIEF-WORLD BANK WORKSHOP

MEND THE GAP IN ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES IN EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA (II EDITION)

MAY 14-15, 2026 | ROME, ITALY

The Axa Gender Lab at Bocconi University, the Einaudi Institute for Economics and Finance (EIEF), and The World Bank's ECA Gender Innovation Lab (ECAGIL), Institute for Economic Development, and the Center for Research on Women and Jobs (CRWJ) are inviting researchers to submit one-page extended abstracts.

THEMES: We invite empirical research on key constraints to women's labor force participation and on effective policies that expand access to good jobs in Europe and Central Asia. Topics include:

- Women's employment and earnings
- Social norms and unpaid work
- Technology, AI and digitalization
- Education, skilling, and school-to-work transitions for young women
- Gender gaps in firm behavior and workplace practices
- Female entrepreneurship
- Access to finance
- Aging, pensions and care
- Migration, displacement and cross-border mobility
- Regional disparities in gender outcomes

SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE:

- Manuel Bagues, Warwick
- Kathleen Beegle, World Bank
- Gaia Dossi, EIEF
- Markus Eberhardt, Univ of Nottingham
- Anna Fruttero, World Bank
- Joao Monteiro, EIEF
- Franco Peracchi, EIEF
- Paola Profeta, Bocconi University
- Lucia Rizzica, Bank of Italy
- Almudena Sevilla, LSE

SUBMISSION: Extended abstracts only should be submitted by **January 16, 2026** to mendthegapworkshop@worldbank.org.

Early-career researchers are encouraged to apply.

For more information on the conference and paper submission, visit our [website](#).