



Information for Participants

OSES Delphi Survey – Online Survey of Experts and Stakeholders

What is the Purpose of This Study?

EDU-LAB is a multinational European research project focused on understanding and improving the pathways and transitions of young people (aged 15–30) in education and training and their entry into the labour market.

The OSES Delphi Survey collects expert opinions on key challenges, trends, and policy options related to education-to-work transitions across Europe. Through two survey rounds, we aim to identify areas of consensus and divergence among experts and stakeholders from different countries and sectors.

Your insights will contribute to evidence-based policy recommendations that can benefit young people and policymakers across Europe.

Who is Conducting This Study?

EDU-LAB is funded by the European Commission's Horizon Europe programme (Grant Agreement No. 101177428) and implemented by a consortium of 11 European universities and research organizations. The project runs from 2025 to 2027.

The OSES Delphi Survey is coordinated by the **Economica Institute of Economic Research** in Vienna, Austria. The entire project is coordinated by Economica. All EDU-LAB consortium partners act as joint data controllers under a Joint Controllership Agreement, which is available on the project website: [JCA Download](#). The essential content of this arrangement, including the allocation of responsibilities and the contact point for data protection requests, is available on the project website.

This research programme and its instruments have been funded by the European Commission and reviewed within the project's ethics procedures.

Further details can be found on the project website: www.edu-lab-project.eu

How Will the Study Proceed?

Survey Duration

The questionnaire takes approximately **20 minutes** to complete. The reduced duration reflects the streamlined design of Wave 2, which focuses only on statements where no clear consensus was reached in Wave 1.

Two-Wave Delphi Process

The OSES Delphi Survey consists of two rounds (waves):



- **Wave 1:** You will evaluate a series of statements on education and labour market transitions using rating scales and have the opportunity to provide comments.
- **Wave 2:** You receive a summary of the aggregated Wave 1 results and are invited to reconsider or refine your views in light of the collective feedback. To enable longitudinal analysis, Wave 2 uses a closed survey format with a unique pseudonymised token that links your responses across both waves.

You agreed to participate in Wave 2 at the end of the first survey round and provided your email address through a separate consent form. Your invitation to this survey was sent to that email address using a secure, pseudonymised token.

Data Separation

In Wave 2, a pseudonymised token is used to link your responses from Wave 1 and Wave 2 at an individual level for longitudinal analysis. This token does not contain your name or any directly identifying information. Only the core research team at Economica has access to the token-to-email mapping, which is stored separately and under strict access controls. All analysis and reporting is conducted on aggregated and/or pseudonymised data. Individual responses are not identifiable in any output.

What Data Will Be Collected?

The survey collects:

- **Sociodemographic information:** Professional background, country, sector of expertise, and similar characteristics (collected pseudonymously within the survey)
- **Your assessments:** Ratings and comments on the survey statements
- **Email address (optional):** Only if you choose to participate in Wave 2, collected through a separate consent form
- **Pseudonymised token:** A unique identifier used in Wave 2 to link your responses from Wave 1 and Wave 2 for longitudinal analysis. This token does not contain personally identifiable information.

No other personally identifiable information is collected within the survey itself. The only personal data collected is the email address for Wave 2 participation. In Wave 2, a pseudonymised token enables the linkage of your responses across both waves, but this token cannot be used to identify you without access to the separately stored email mapping.

How Is Your Data Protected?

Technical Security

The survey is hosted on LimeSurvey's GDPR-compliant cloud platform, with servers located in the EU. LimeSurvey GmbH acts as a data processor under a GDPR-compliant data processing agreement. Email addresses (for participation in Wave 2) are stored separately from survey responses. Any linkage across the two waves is carried out exclusively through a pseudonymised token that does not contain any directly identifying information.

Pseudonymisation

All survey responses are pseudonymised. Your responses are identified only by a pseudonymised token, not by your name or other directly identifying information. In Wave 2, this token enables a linkage of your responses across both waves for research purposes. The token-to-email mapping is stored separately and under strict access restrictions. Your identity is not disclosed in any analysis or reporting.

Access Restrictions

Access to the survey data is strictly limited to authorised researchers within the EDU-LAB consortium. Only the core research team at Economica has access to the LimeSurvey administration system.

Data Retention

- Personal data (email addresses) will be retained for a maximum of two years after the end of the project for validation purposes, then securely deleted.
- Only anonymised and/or aggregated research data may be preserved for scientific reuse and, where appropriate, deposited in the open-access repository Zenodo for at least five years after project completion. Any internally retained pseudonymised research data will remain subject to access controls and appropriate technical and organisational safeguards.

Legal Basis for Data Processing

The processing of your personal data is carried out in accordance with the **General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) (EU) 2016/679**, specifically:

- **Article 6(1)(a):** the data subject has given consent to the processing of their personal data for the purposes of scientific research.

The EDU-LAB project follows strict data protection safeguards, including pseudonymisation, purpose limitation, data minimisation, and security measures with access restrictions.

Your Rights Under GDPR

As a participant, you have the following rights regarding your personal data:

- **Right of access:** You are entitled to know what information we hold about you or to receive confirmation that your personal data is not being processed.
- **Right to rectification:** You have the right to have any incorrect, inaccurate, or incomplete personal data corrected without undue delay.
- **Right to erasure ("right to be forgotten"):** In certain circumstances, you have the right to have your personal data erased from our records.
- **Right to restriction of processing:** You may request that we restrict the processing of your personal data.
- **Right to object:** In certain circumstances, you may object to the processing of your personal data at any time for compelling personal reasons.

- **Right to data portability:** You have the right to obtain a copy of your personal data in a commonly used, machine-readable format.
- **Right to lodge a complaint:** You have the right to lodge a complaint with a supervisory authority (Data Protection Authority) in your country of residence if you believe your data protection rights have been violated.

These rights can be exercised as long as the data remains identifiable. Your rights under the GDPR apply as long as we are able to relate the data to you, directly or indirectly. Pseudonymised data remain personal data under the GDPR. Where data have been irreversibly anonymised, identification is no longer possible.

Note: In accordance with Article 89(2) of GDPR, some rights (such as erasure and objection) may be lawfully restricted if necessary for scientific research purposes, provided that such restrictions are proportionate and necessary to ensure research validity.

Voluntary Participation and Withdrawal

Your participation in this study is completely voluntary. You may:

- Decline to answer questions in the survey
- Stop the survey at any time and return to it later
- Withdraw your participation at any time without providing a reason and without any negative consequences

You may also withdraw your consent to the processing of your personal data at any time by contacting us using the details below. Such withdrawal does not affect the lawfulness of processing carried out before the withdrawal.

Contact Information

OSES Coordinator

For questions about the survey, your participation, or to request withdrawal:

Daniel Helmenstein, MSc.

OSES Coordinator

Economica Institute of Economic Research

Liniengasse 50-52, 1060 Vienna, Austria

Email: daniel.helmenstein@economica.eu

Data Protection Officer

For questions specifically related to data protection:

Mag. Harald Schitnig

Data Protection Officer

Economica Institute of Economic Research

Liniengasse 50-52, 1060 Vienna, Austria

Email: dataprotection@edu-lab-project.eu

Supervisory Authority

If you believe that your data protection rights have been violated, you have the right to lodge a complaint with the data protection supervisory authority in the EU/EEA country of your habitual residence, your place of work, or the place of the alleged infringement. Contact details of national data protection authorities are available via the European Data Protection Board (EDPB): [Link to the EDPB](#).

Consent

By proceeding with the survey, you confirm that:

- You have read and understood this information sheet
- You have had the opportunity to ask questions
- You understand that your participation is voluntary and that you may withdraw at any time without consequences
- You consent to the processing of your data as described above
- You consent to the pseudonymised linkage of your Wave 1 and Wave 2 responses for the purpose of longitudinal analysis within the EDU-LAB research project

Digital consent is obtained at the start of the survey through a dedicated consent screen. Your consent is recorded electronically.