

Call for Papers

9th International Conference "Work and Health"

Thursday, January 29 to Friday, January 30 2026

University of Applied Sciences and Arts Northwestern Switzerland (FHNW), Olten, Switzerland

The conference "Work and Health" will focus on **"transforming work"** and **"current challenges."**

CFP 1: Transforming Work

Profound societal transformations are currently becoming visible in various ways in the world of work. They affect both professional developments – in connection, for example, with extra qualification requirements demanded by new corporate self-management models – and organizational developments, particularly in relation to digitalization. New business models are associated with transformations of work, e.g. in the platform economy or changed work models including remote work. The latter challenges the notion of workplaces as physically grounded entities and blurs boundaries between employees' paid work and their private lives. This transformation of corporate environments often corresponds with new societal demands related, inter alia, to artificial intelligence, digitalization, demographic change, climate change and sustainability. Thus companies and employees must identify potential corporate innovations and how to implement them concretely. Such transformations can be greeted very differently. While they are welcomed on the one hand for revealing new development potential, the necessary individual and organizational realignments in the world of work are often seen as onerous. On the individual level, they can create new and altered health problems, while companies are concerned about risks to corporate cohesion, productivity, and performance. Endless optimization and flexibilization of established work structures and overall corporate organization are often seen by employees as both individual and corporate threats. The individualisation of employees and the associated need for changed infrastructure, work-time models, and organisational structures adapted to their health needs present companies with challenges.

This "transforming work" stream of the conference will examine individual, organizational, and societal changes triggered by social transformations. We welcome both theoretical and empirical contributions, particularly those related to the following themes: 1) Theoretical perspectives 2) AI and digital transformation 3) demographic transformation 4) skilled labour shortages, 5) employee health 6) inclusive labour markets and accessible workplaces.

CFP 2: Sustainability, Innovation, and Solidarity in "Work and Health"

In addressing technological, personnel, and organizational challenges, companies often require innovative solutions, which can be a challenge for employees. New qualification requirements frequently emerge, destabilizing established compromises, creating uncertainty and stress; such adjustment pressures often lead to health problems. Another challenge for both companies and employees is the growing social and corporate demand for sustainability and climate change measures. As well, despite shortages of skilled workers, people are still losing their jobs due to company relocations, technological changes, or health problems, often necessitating fundamental career changes, even for those advanced in their careers. With age comes a growing likelihood of chronic illness or disability, and a need for more support (assistance, care, and nursing) for important caregivers.

As well as corporate innovations to support better work–life balances, questions of mutual support in the workplace arise that can be collectively described as "solidarity." Issues of workplace solidarity extend to social and labour policy matters, such as appropriate accommodation and accessibility, mutual team support, and more general company-wide assistance. Key issues include:

- Health risks at work
- Social and corporate measures in the context of work and health
- The compatibility of employment with caregiving responsibilities (informal care)
- The impact of health impairments and disabilities on labour market retention and access
- New demands in vocational training and rehabilitation, and continuing education, especially for people with health problems and disabilities
- Encouragement of employment for those with work disabilities, including (re)integration into the workforce
- Forms of workplace discrimination

We welcome theoretical and empirical contributions.

The conference will explore facets of the focus topic "new work" and discuss current developments related to "work and health." Please assign your proposal to one of the following categories:

1. Transforming Work
2. Artificial Intelligence and Digital Transformation
3. Demographic Transformation
4. Sustainable Transformation
5. Innovation
6. Return to Work and Stay at Work
7. Work and Health
8. Inclusive Labour Markets and Accessible Workplaces for Persons with Disabilities
9. Work–Life Balance

Submission

Interested speakers are invited to submit an abstract of their paper (max. 300 words) via the digital conference tool that can be found at: <https://konferenz-arbeitundgesundheit.ch/>. Proposals will be selected through peer review by the program committee. Please indicate which focus topic (CFP 1 or CFP 2) your contribution belongs to, and in which conference languages (German and English) you can present and discuss.

Proposal submission deadline:	August 24, 2025
Notification to applicants:	September 2025
Conference languages:	German and English
Further information:	https://konferenz-arbeitundgesundheit.ch/

Organizers

- Institute for Integration and Participation, University of Applied Sciences and Arts Northwestern Switzerland (FHNW) (Olten, Switzerland)
- University of Bremen, Institute for Labour and Economy (Bremen, Germany)
- University of Vienna, Institute of Sociology (Vienna, Austria)
- University of Education Freiburg (Germany)
- University of Kassel (Germany)

Program Committee

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