

Abstract of the presentation

“Anticipating skills for European recovery”

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Economic crisis, climate change as well as demographic developments (including ageing and migration) are posing huge challenges not only to Europe but across the world bringing risks and threats to existing jobs. However, current challenges should be seen as opportunities to improve the links between education, training and the labour market and to prepare for recovery and better future.

Driving economic recovery through knowledge and skills is key but better labour market information and improved capability to anticipate changing skill needs is needed. Any anticipation in times of crisis is difficult and we need to combine different tools, methods and approaches. Forecasting skill needs is one of the methods which can provide outlook of longer-term trends beyond the crisis. Although carried out before the crisis, Cedefop’s forecast of skill needs and its the negative scenario provides some indication on what qualifications and occupations Europe will need in the longer-term and what will be the replacement needs.

To ensure the right match of skills and jobs, Cedefop’s upcoming forecast of skill supply will provide complementary information on what skills will be available in the labour market in the future. Other priorities of Cedefop’s future work include developing regular forecasts of skill supply and demand in Europe, exploring use of employers’ surveys as a tool for skill needs analysis, identifying skill needs for the green economy, etc. All these activities will contribute to the recently launched New Skills for New Jobs initiative.