

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**
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Cedefop conference examines how to match skills with future jobs

Cedefop is organising a conference, *Matching skills and jobs: Anticipating needs in challenging times*, on 11-12 June in Thessaloniki.

The aim of the conference, which is organised in cooperation with the European Commission, is to announce **the results of its medium-term forecast** on the supply of skills, *Future skills supply in Europe*, and to present the Commission's recently launched New Skills for New Jobs initiative.

The conference will provide information on how Cedefop is assessing the demand and supply of skills in Europe, a subject on which the agency has already published its first forecast in 2008 on the demand for skills.

This forecast was a major source for the European Commission's Communication, New Skills for New Jobs (December 2008), which aimed to spell out ways to match vacancies with job-seekers and to prevent skills shortages.

The Cedefop forecasts of skills, now finishing the pilot stage, are to publish updated results on the supply and demand for skills every two years, starting in 2010.

Topics for discussion at the conference include:

- how to identify and assess the different types of skills mismatch (for instance, over qualification, under education, etc. – including the phenomenon of high unemployment co-existing with high job vacancies).
- how employers can best estimate and provide information on their own skill needs
- what are the best forms of partnership between educational institutions and enterprises (e.g. traineeships, apprenticeships, involvement of social partners in curricular development)

Registration open until 28 May at: <http://www.cedefop.europa.eu/agora/skills2009/>

Contact:

Conference co-ordinator

Alena Zuckersteinova, tel. +30 2310 490103, E-mail: alena.zuckersteinova@cedefop.europa.eu

Press Office:

Ioánnna Nezi, tel. +30 2310 490186, E-mail: ioanna.nezi@cedefop.europa.eu

Head of Communication and Information:

Gerd Oskar Bausewein, tel. +30 2310 490288, e-mail: gerd-oskar.bausewein@cedefop.europa.eu

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About Cedefop

The European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training (Cedefop), an agency of the European Union based in Thessaloniki, Greece, supports European policy-making in the field of vocational education and training.

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