

**Thessaloniki 13 July 2012****For immediate release**<http://www.cedefop.europa.eu>

Austrian vocational training needs to become more open to adult learners

The number of younger workers in Austria is set to increase by 2020, and a greater proportion of Austrian workers achieve the all-important medium-level qualifications. But in developing skills for the next decade, the country faces similar challenges to the rest of Europe – an ageing workforce.



The labour force aged 25-34 will increase in Austria, unlike the EU as whole. But the country's workforce is still ageing. And just like the rest of Europe, Austria needs to move away from age-bound education and training, to more flexible arrangements.

Cedefop's Steve Bainbridge, who recently presented the [latest skills forecast \(2012-2020\)](#) at the OeAD in Vienna, explains:



Steve Bainbridge, Cedefop.
Photo: OeAD/APA-Fotoservice/Zötl

“The education and training system in Austria is renowned across Europe for its high quality, particularly in terms of initial vocational education for young people. But the demographic data cannot be ignored. Austrian workers will need systematic continuing training, and in some cases, reskilling.”

Most job growth in Austria by 2020 will be in distribution and transport, and in services, both in the public and private sector. At all skills levels, the jobs with the best prospects are those which have non-routine tasks, which cannot easily be replaced by technological or organisational change.

Jobs and qualification levels

In the EU overall, people with medium-level qualifications, primarily vocational education and training – will account for about half the workforce in 2020, while the share of people with high-level qualifications will rise to a third.

In Austria, these numbers are different: more people have medium-level qualifications, and fewer have achieved high-level qualifications. But overall this is a good thing: most job opportunities in the same period will be at the medium level.

[OeAD](#), the Austrian National Agency for Lifelong Learning, invited Cedefop to present its forecast data on the demand and supply of skills across the EU at its conference, “Bildung, Stärken, Chancen”, held on 27 June 2012 in Vienna.

Cedefop skills forecasts- country data

<http://www.cedefop.europa.eu/EN/about-cedefop/projects/forecasting-skill-demand-and-supply/skills-forecasts.aspx>

Briefing note - Europe's skill challenge

<http://www.cedefop.europa.eu/EN/publications/19651.aspx>

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Contact

Press Officer

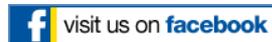
Ioánnna Nezi, tel.+30 2310 490186, E-Mail: ioanna.nezi@cedefop.europa.eu

Head of Communication, Information and Dissemination

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

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. <http://www.cedefop.europa.eu>



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