



Call for papers

EXPERT CONFERENCE ON SKILLS DEMAND AND SUPPLY FORECASTING

Thessaloniki, Greece, 17th – 18th February 2011

Cedefop, the European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training, is organising a two-day international conference on Skills demand and supply forecasting in Thessaloniki on 17-18 February 2011.

The aim of this technical conference is to bring together an international forum of researchers and experts in labour market needs and supply forecasting to gather the latest insights on the use of the Cedefop forecast as well as on other (innovative) forecasting processes in different Member States. The conference will also promote skills supply and demand forecasting amongst different experts in the field.

Background:

An agenda for new skills and jobs, as one of the flagship initiatives of the new Europe 2020 strategy, aims at modernising labour markets and empowering people by developing their skills throughout the lifecycle with a view to increase labour market participation and to better match labour supply with demand.

The pan-European forecast of skills supply and demand developed by the European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training (Cedefop) is an important contribution to this process. The forecasting initiative of Cedefop started with two pilot projects focused on forecasting the labour market skills needs in 2008 and labour market skills supply in 2009. The most recent forecasting work published by Cedefop in 2010 combines these two forecasts and presents the first pan-European forecast of skills supply and demand for 27 European Member States of the European Union, plus Norway and Switzerland. The forecast is disaggregated by 41 NACE sectors, 21 ISCO occupation groups and three broad ISCED levels.

The latest Cedefop forecast results in aggregated form were announced in February 2010 and in June 2010 the whole range of detailed country, sector, occupation and qualification specific results went public. Cedefop would like to use this conference to discuss how these results were used by different stakeholders and particularly by researchers and experts in the field. We would also like to update the knowledge on what is used and developed at national level and how we can further improve our work.

Topics for papers:

Further analysis of forecast results

Papers should focus on labour market analyses using Cedefop forecast results presented in the country workbooks (CWs). CWs are available to various stakeholders, researchers and experts in the field and provide a unique opportunity for further analyses of European or national labour market data.

Comparing forecast results

Papers should compare Cedefop forecast results with those made at national level, address the consistency checks and/or discuss ideas for future developments of the Cedefop forecast.

Comparing forecast methodology

Papers should compare quantitative methods used for forecasting at national level with Cedefop methodology and/or investigate tools used as well as gather insights for solving methodological issues facing the Cedefop forecast.

Use of forecast results by stakeholders

Papers should present examples and/or address the potential use of Cedefop forecast results to shape European and national labour market and education/training policies.

How to participate?

We invite contributors to send a **maximum two page abstract** to the conference organisers by 10th December 2010 indicating the theme of the paper. Abstracts should contain a clear and concise description of a problem statement and/or research questions, research method and research findings.

Contributors will receive a review of their abstract by 10th January 2010. The deadline for sending draft PowerPoint presentations to last 15-20 minutes is 10th February 2011. The deadline for submitting the final version of papers to be published is 10th March 2011. Cedefop will reimburse the travel and accommodation expenses of selected participants who will be invited to present a full paper at the conference.

Participants who would like to attend the conference without presenting a paper are highly welcome too. The website containing the complete agenda and registration information will be available from January 2011.

Contact information:

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