



# Forecasting skill supply and demand in Europe: Policy scenarios and recommendations for the future

## SKILLSNET TECHNICAL WORKSHOP

**10 – 11 May 2012, Venice**

### General information

<b>Workshop venue</b>	The University of Warwick in Venice Palazzo Pesaro Papafava Calle de la Racketta Cannaregio 3764 30121 Venezia Italy / Italia
<b>Organisers</b>	European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training (Cedefop), Greece; and Institute for Employment Research (IER), University of Warwick, United Kingdom
<b>No. of participants</b>	Max. 40
<b>Participants' profile</b>	Experts in forecasting and statistics on skill demands and supply, including: drivers of the changing pattern of demand for occupations and qualifications; demographic developments and labour supply projections; and statistics on labour demand, occupations, qualifications, education (participation, graduation, flows, and transition from education to the labour market).
<b>Working language</b>	English

### Introduction

This workshop continues the well established series of events focussed on changing skill needs across Europe. It brings together experts from across the EU, as well as some other neighbouring countries, to consider issues of common interest and concern.

The latest Cedefop skill supply and demand forecast was finalized in 2011 and published at the end of March 2012. The latest projections confirm the continuation of the trends and patterns identified in the previous forecast. This confirms the robustness of the tools used as well as the rationality of the underlying assumptions. At the same time the project has developed series of more detailed analyses which provide the opportunity to look upon skills supply and demand from different perspectives.

The key objectives in 2012 are to review and assess the work carried out to date and to provide a further "quick update" of the projections before the end of the year. The continuing uncertainties in financial and other markets make producing quantitative forecasts especially difficult.

The main focus during 2012 will therefore be on exploring alternative scenarios and trying to identify policy and other strategies that are robust of to whatever the future may throw up. Cedefop is trying to seek the answers to these questions in both qualitative and quantitative ways, working with a research team led by the Warwick Institute for Employment Research (IER), comprising Cambridge Econometrics (CE), Alphametrics (AM), the Research Centre for Education and the Labour Market in Maastricht (ROA), as well as a number of other experts. This work is all taking place within the wider framework of Cedefop's international network on early identification of skill needs 'Skillsnet' (<http://www.cedefop.europa.eu/EN/about-cedefop/networks/skillsnet/index.aspx>).

Discussion and validation of key findings, as well as an active involvement in developing and exploring possible alternative scenarios by different country experts are key components of the Cedefop skills forecasting process. The workshop in Venice will provide a new platform for discussion and expert review. Experts from all member states, plus Norway and Switzerland, as well as some candidate and other neighbouring countries such as Croatia, Iceland, the former Yugoslavian Republic of Macedonia and Turkey are also invited to take part in this process.

## **Workshop rationale and objectives**

The Venice workshop will provide the opportunity to discuss:

- the latest improvements in the modelling framework, especially data issues (including the switch to new classifications), imbalance indicators and Computable General Equilibrium (CGE) style extensions to existing models;
- the new ways of designing and exploring different policy scenarios;
- improved methods translating qualitative assumptions into the quantitative modelling framework;
- discussion of how the Cedefop results compare with those in selected individual countries; and
- evaluation and assessment of the results produced in the research programme to date.

*Skillsnet* country experts will be able to comment on the latest analysis and plans for the remainder of the year, as well as helping to design and explore a range of scenarios setting out possible future developments in the pan-European labour market. As in previous workshops the aim will be to involve country experts closely in the process, drawing on their general knowledge and expertise, as well as obtaining substantial country specific insights.

## **Workshop structure and methods of working**

The workshop will be focussed around presentations describing the latest methodological developments and preliminary results from the different pieces of work in the 2012 work programme, followed by plenary discussion. This will be the prime focus of the opening sessions.

The key method of working will involve detailed discussion of the outcomes. Background documents and results (in the form of detailed Excel tables summarising the latest results) will be circulated in advance. Participants will be given an opportunity to comment on these in detail, and to contribute to the validation of the main findings in the plenary and in small working groups. As previously, the working groups will be facilitated by Country Group Experts, who will help to organise the discussion.

Thursday, 10 May 2012	
09:00–09:30	<b>Registration</b>
09:30–09:45	<b>Welcome and introduction</b> <i>Vladimir Kvetan and Antonio Ranieri (Cedefop)</i> <i>Rob Wilson (IER)</i>
09:45–11:00	<b>Session 1: Developing methods and tools</b> <i>Chair: Vladimir Kvetan</i>
	<b>Further analysis of imbalances</b> <i>Ben Kriechel and Martin Humburg (ROA)</i>  <b>CGE and related modelling developments</b> <i>Rob Wilson (IER)</i>
11:00–11:30	<i>Coffee/Tea break</i>
11:30–13:00	<b>Session 2: Country case studies</b> <i>Chair: Rob Wilson</i>
	<i>Contributions by various experts discussing general themes that have emerged from the country case studies</i> <b>From the team:</b> <i>Derek Bosworth (UK), Emilio Colombo (Italy), Tim Grebe (Germany), Ben Kriechel (Netherlands), Jan Koucký (Czech Republic)</i> <b>Additional contributions:</b> <i>Edith Skriner (Austria), Catalin Ghinararu (Romania) and Giacomo Damioli (Italy)</i>
13:00–14:00	<i>Lunch</i>
14:00–15:30	<b>Session 3: Designing policy scenarios</b> <i>Chair: Antonio Ranieri</i>
	<b>Qualitative scenarios</b> <i>Tom Leney (DTI), Emilio Colombo (University Milano-Bicocca)</i>  <b>Discussion (Plenary)</b>
15:30–16:00	<i>Coffee/Tea break</i>
16:00–17:30	<b>Session 4: Working topic groups</b> <i>Introduction by Vladimir Kvetan</i>
	Discussion within topic groups on: Policy scenarios, CGE developments, Imbalances, Country Case Studies – facilitated by team members and CGEs (acting as rapporteurs).
17:00	End of day 1
20:00	<i>Dinner</i>

Friday, 11 May 2012	
09:00-10:30	<b>Session 5: Step forward</b> <span style="float: right;">Chair: <i>Vladimir Kvetan</i></span>
	<p><b>Occupations, education and wage differences</b>  <i>Robert Stehrer, Terry Ward</i> (Alphametrics)</p> <p><b>Evaluation of projections and addressing the critics</b>  <i>Rob Wilson</i> (IER) and <i>Ben Kriechel</i> (ROA)</p> <p><b>Step forward</b>  <i>Cedefop</i></p> <p><b>Discussion (plenary)</b></p>
10:30-11:00	<i>Coffee/Tea break</i>
11:00-12:30	<b>Session 6: Open space discussion</b> <span style="float: right;">Introduction by <i>Rob Wilson</i></span>
	Further and more detailed discussion within topic groups on themes identified in earlier sessions, facilitated by CGE (acting as rapporteurs).
12:30-13:00	<b>Debrief from discussion groups</b>
13:00-13:30	<b>Closing remarks</b>
13:30	<i>End of workshop</i>

## Contact details

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