

**SKILLSNET e-bulletin: June 2017****Highlight of the month****Stay tuned for the European Skills Index!**

Since 2013, at Cedefop we have been working on constructing a skills index. We decided that it should consider three dimensions; namely: a) skills development, b) skills activation, and c) skills matching. These are distinct areas but, all together, they capture three different stages of the route of skills from cultivation to utilisation in the labour market and at work. In particular, skills development represents the training and education activities that take place in a country, and their immediate outputs in terms of skills developed and attained, skills activation assesses the transition from education to employment, while skills matching captures the extent that skills are effectively used at work and the labour market in general.

The European Skills Index - Making Skills Work - measures the comparative performance of the skills formation and matching system of each EU country and can be consulted through the Skills Panorama. Read more on the Skills Panorama [here](#).

News from Cedefop**Call for tenders: Preparation and implementation of the 4th European company survey (ECS)**

Eurofound has launched a Competitive procedure with negotiation in collaboration with Cedefop. This is a joint procurement of Eurofound and Cedefop which decided not only to join resources and expertise at this stage but at the contract implementation stage as well. The deadline for submission of tenders is the **16.06.2017**. You may download the Tender documents and any other related information from the following link [here](#).

Traineeships at Cedefop: 2017 intake

Cedefop's traineeship scheme is mainly for young university graduates as well as PhD students, without excluding those who – in the framework of lifelong learning – have recently obtained a university diploma and are at the beginning of a new professional career. Cedefop invites applications for the traineeship intake of October 2017. The deadline for the submission of online applications is the **22.06.2017**, at 15:00 Greek time (CET+1). Candidates are advised to read all information available on this site before submitting their online application. For the intake of 2017 Cedefop offers 15 traineeships in the following projects. There is one **position** for the Skills forecasting and sectoral-based system (Department for Skills and Labour Market). For the details of each project, click on the relevant link [here](#).

Call for tenders: Validation of non-formal and informal learning and career guidance

The study will investigate the necessary conditions, synergies and efficiency gains of linking validation and career guidance and counselling services. Deadline of submitting tenders: **05.09.2017**. Requests for additional information / clarification should be received by 25.08.2017. The answers to such requests, if any, will be published under this banner, therefore please visit Cedefop's website frequently for updates. Find more [here](#).

European Commission: Unemployment and inactivity of young people – do we see progress and the right policy responses?

This 'Evidence in focus' on the 2017 Joint Employment Report, adopted on 3 March 2017 by the EPSCO Council, and its Scoreboard of Key Employment and Social Indicators looks at policy efforts to address challenges for young people, including unemployment and inactivity. The youth

unemployment rate and the rate of 'young people neither in employment, education or training' (NEET), as part of the Scoreboard, show a continued decline since 2014. However, for some Member States, unemployment and NEET rates are still very high. Read more [here](#).

News from Skillsnet members**European Commission Survey on Education, Training & Employment: Let us know how online tools can help in managing people's skills and careers**

Take this 5-minutes online survey and help shape the Commission's online strategy in the field of education, training and employment. Hurry up as the survey will only remain active until the **18th of June 2017!** This survey is designed to understand the needs of people when looking for support and information on education, training and employment. To ensure EU services are modern and reflect people's needs we want to understand how people find and access this support and information whether online, using technology, or through services. The survey aims to gather feedback from a wide range of people such as students, workers, and job-seekers as well as organisations such as education and training providers, employers/recruiters, and guidance counsellors. **Take the survey here.**

European Council adopts revision of the European Qualifications Framework (EQF) for lifelong learning

The Education, Youth, Culture and Sport Council adopted the revision of the European Qualifications Framework (EQF) for lifelong learning. The purpose of the EQF is to improve the transparency, comparability and portability of people's qualifications. The EQF was originally created in 2008 as a common reference framework of eight European generic levels of learning, which serves as "translation grid" between national qualifications systems. The adoption of the revision ensures the continuity as well as a further deepening of the EQF so it can keep up with future developments. Read more [here](#).

Estonia: nine adult education projects to develop key competences

The government aims to reduce the share of adults aged 25 to 64 without professional or vocational education from 28.5% in 2016 to less than 25% by 2020, and to increase their participation in lifelong learning. An obstacle for achieving this goal is low motivation and lack of key competences. Nine projects totalling EUR 2.1 million provide social and learning skills, entrepreneurship competence, foreign languages and Estonian for non-native speakers. They also offer support and follow-up activities that increase the sustainability of learning outcomes and bridge the development of key competences and motivation for the continuation of studies in formal and non-formal education. Read more [here](#).

Estonia: VET schools promote language skills

The government supports Estonian as a second language and foreign language learning by learners in VET and higher education, to ensure better career opportunities and mobility. Analysis of PIAAC data (programme for the international assessment of adult competencies), indicates that very good Estonian and foreign language skills can increase employment and reduce wage gaps between different social groups. Estonia is one of the EU member states with the highest share of migrant background population: about 30% of 1.3 million are native Russian

European Semester 2017 Spring Package: Commission issues country-specific recommendations

The European Commission today presents its 2017 country-specific recommendations (CSRs), setting out its economic policy guidance for individual Member States for the next 12 to 18 months. The economy in the EU and the euro area is proving resilient, but challenges, such as: slow productivity growth, the legacies of the crisis – including persisting inequalities – uncertainty arising mostly from external factors continue. Member States should therefore use the window of opportunity offered by the economic recovery to: pursue structural reforms, boost investment, and strengthen their public finances. Priorities vary across the EU but further efforts across the board are essential to achieve more inclusive, robust and sustainable growth. Find more [here](#).

Skills publications

Cedefop: VET toolkit for tackling early leaving - A valuable source of support for policy-makers and VET providers



A Europe-wide toolkit inspired by successful VET practices in helping young people to attain at least an upper secondary qualification. It provides practical guidance, tips, good practices and tools drawn from VET to feed into activities and policies aiming at: helping young people at risk of becoming early leavers to remain in education and training and qualify; helping early leavers to reintegrate into education or training and the labour market. A new self-reflection tool for policy-makers and two evaluation plans (one for policy-makers and one for VET providers) can be used to monitor and evaluate the performance of policies and practices. Access the toolkit on Cedefop's website [here](#).



Vocational education and training: bridging refugee and employer needs

Over the past two years, Europe has received an unprecedented number of refugees and asylum seekers. Close to 2.5 million new asylum seekers were registered in the European Union (EU) in 2015 and 2016. Many of these are here to stay and the European Union needs to ensure that they enter the labour market and become self-reliant as quickly as possible. Read more [here](#).

ESPN Synthesis Report on “Access to social protection for people working on non-standard contracts and as self-employed in Europe: A study of national policies”

Despite a number of recent national reforms which seek to improve their social protection, the self-employed still have lower coverage and benefits than salaried workers, and run a much higher risk of falling into poverty, according to a new Synthesis Report by the European Social Policy Network (ESPN). The report describes the social and labour market situation of the self-employed and non-standard workers in 35 European countries; analyses their statutory and effective access to the main social protection schemes; identifies recent national reforms aimed at extending social protection to these categories of workers. Read more [here](#).

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speakers. In VET, more than 20% of learners study in Russian. Although it is mandatory, VET graduates of migrant background often have insufficient Estonian language skills to find a good job. In some study fields, there is also a need for better foreign language skills. Find more [here](#).

Slovakia: Serious skills mismatch ahead if policy is not turned into action

Population ageing, demographic decline and learners' study preferences are posing major challenges to Slovakia's economy. Its labour force will not be able to meet labour market needs. Selected results of labour market supply and demand forecasts up to 2025 presented at an Education Policy Institute (Education Ministry) workshop earlier this year aimed at informing policy-makers about this risk. A probabilistic model, estimating supply of secondary and tertiary education graduates by field of study, indicates alarming developments. Read more [here](#).

Forthcoming events

3rd Cedefop Brussels seminar - Addressing and preventing low skills

Date: 26/06/2017, **Place:** Permanent Representation of Malta to the EU, Brussels, Belgium

This seminar will focus on addressing and preventing low skills, a driving force of the core skills strategies in the EU. This seminar, organised in cooperation with the Maltese Presidency of the Council of the EU, will focus on addressing and preventing low skills, a driving force of the core skills strategies in the EU. It will serve as a platform for policy-makers, social partners and other VET and labour market stakeholders to discuss factors which impact on the average skills level of workers, such as early leaving from E&T, long-term unemployment, ageing, skills mismatch, socioeconomic background, migrant status and gender. Discussions will also focus on how to encourage the development of systems to address the issue of low skills, a key objective of the Recommendation 'Upskilling Pathways: New Opportunities for Adults'. Find more [here](#).

Policy learning forum on apprenticeships

Date: 07/09/2017 to 08/09/2017, **Place:** Cedefop, Greece

The first policy learning forums (PLFs) on apprenticeships is linked to the thematic country reviews on apprenticeships (TCRs), which Cedefop launched in 2014. With the TCRs Cedefop supports cooperation at European level among Member States and interacts with individual countries that wish to develop quality apprenticeships, in line with EU policies. Cedefop's PLFs are an opportunity for countries to generate knowledge and they act as a site of consensus-building around shared problems. The 2017 PLF on apprenticeships addresses the countries that are involved at different stages in the TCRs and flash TCRs on apprenticeships, or that expressed their interest to participate. Find more [here](#).

Online recruitment in EU countries – diffusion and use

Date: 13/09/2017 to 15/09/2017, **Place:** Cedefop, Greece

Cedefop is developing a fully-fledged system for analysing online vacancies across the EU. One of the key activities of this project is the review and assessment of the online job market across Member States. This closed expert workshop will gather labour market analysts from all EU countries to validate initial results and determine further work under this activity. More to come [here](#).

The Skillsnet network



Skillsnet members have the opportunity to inform other members of our network about new projects, events, activities or publications related to early identification of skill needs throughout the year. If you are interested to inform other members, please submit your short article / information (max of 100 words) to **Ioannis Katsikis** whenever you have any news to disseminate.

