

**SKILLSNET e-bulletin: March 2018****Highlight of the month****New online LMI toolkit for guidance practitioners by Cedefop**

Labour market intelligence (LMI) is being produced in vast amounts across Europe, providing insights on where jobs are, where to find the best training and which are the best opportunities for mobility. Recent developments in information technologies (ICT) allow developing websites and phone apps, which make this information more accessible to the ones who need it. Moving away from traditional face-to-face to distance services comes with challenges however: adequate strategies are necessary to provide the full range of guidance and counselling activities with a new set of online tools. LMI is embedded in all those activities and selectively used. Read more in the new blog article by Cedefop's Pedro Moreno da Fonseca published on the Skills Panorama [here](#).

**News from Cedefop****Cedefop: Insights into skill shortages and skill mismatch**

A new publication analyses Cedefop's European skills and jobs (ESJ) survey, a data set covering about 49 000 EU-28 adult employees. Compiling different data insights, the report highlights skill mismatch as a complex, multidimensional and dynamic phenomenon. At the dawn of the 4th industrial revolution, four in 10 employers in Europe cannot find people with the right skills. The introduction of new technologies means that skill needs are changing fast, and 43% of EU employees told the ESJ survey that they had recently experienced new technologies at work. Watch Cedefop's [animated video](#) to find out more and [download](#) the report for the analysis.

**European Commission adopts proposals for a European Labour Authority and for access to social protection**

The European Commission has taken more concrete new initiatives to further deliver on the European Pillar of Social Rights. More specifically, the Commission presents its proposal for a European Labour Authority, as announced by President Juncker in his 2017 State of the Union address, as well as an initiative to ensure access to social protection for all workers and self-employed. These initiatives are accompanied by a Communication on the monitoring of the implementation of the European Pillar of Social Rights, which will be closely linked to the European Semester of policy coordination. Find more [here](#).

**European Commission: New toolkit helps public employment services strengthen national career and lifelong learning approaches**

The Practitioner's toolkit for PES Building Career Guidance and Lifelong Learning presents concepts and tools for public employment services (PES) to assess needs and strengthen the career guidance and lifelong learning system and services. PES have a major role to play in career guidance and lifelong learning, especially considering the increased demands for a skilled labour force in a constantly changing labour market. Find more [here](#).

**Refernet France: Tackling unemployment - two million people to be trained by 2022**

The French Government announced in late 2017 the launch of a skills investment plan, PIC (Plan d'investissement compétences) for 2018 to 2022. The aim of the five-year plan is to train a million low qualified job seekers and a million young people furthest from the labour market. Mainly based on the work carried out by France Stratégie, an institution dedicated to public policy foresight, the PIC aims to ensure that the choice of the funded training is in line with current and future skills needed by businesses. Find more [here](#).

**News from Skillsnet members****Refernet Latvia: Baltic cooperation for developing work-based learning**

Development of work-based learning (WBL) in initial vocational education (VET) is a national policy priority. It started in 2013/14 as a pilot project addressing the incomplete legal framework, insufficient offer in traditionally school-based VET, and low involvement of employers, who, nevertheless, demanded improved VET quality and labour market relevance. In 2014-17, Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia cooperated in promoting WBL within a national Erasmus+project for apprenticeship (WBL-Balt). In 2015, the Baltic alliance for apprenticeships (BAfA) was launched as part of the project. The project also raised awareness of WBL and studied existing practices with stakeholders at national level. Find more [here](#).

**ILO: A road map for the future of work**

The first stage of the Future of Work Initiative, carried out between 2016 and 2017, involved national dialogues between governments, employers' and workers' organizations with (in some countries) the participation of other groups, such as youth. These dialogues took place in over 110 member States, encompassing developed and developing countries, including fragile states. In addition, the ILO held a global dialogue at ILO headquarters in April 2017 on "The Future of Work We Want", which brought together 700 participants, including leading academics and representatives of the ILO tripartite constituents, to discuss the changes sweeping through the world of work and the possible policy responses. Read more [here](#).

**Eurostat: Euro area unemployment at 8.6% and EU28 at 7.3%**

The euro area (EA19) seasonally-adjusted unemployment rate was 8.6% in January 2018, stable compared to December 2017 and down from 9.6% in January 2017. This is the lowest rate recorded in the euro area since December 2008. The EU28 unemployment rate was 7.3% in January 2018, stable compared to December 2017 and down from 8.1% in January 2017. This remains the lowest rate recorded in the EU28 since October 2008. These figures are published by Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union. Read more [here](#).

**Refernet Netherlands: Poor literacy among teens on the rise**

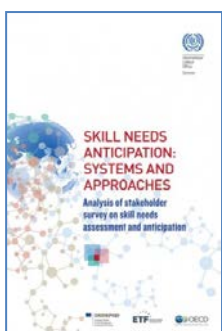
Low literacy rates are increasing in the Netherlands, despite policies by the Dutch Government to tackle the problem. Around two and a half million Dutch people currently have literacy and numeracy difficulties, according to the Court of Audit's 2016 report (Approach to illiteracy). A recent report (ecbo, 2017) highlights the fact that the number of Dutch 15-year-olds with reading problems is increasing at an alarming rate. According to this report, commissioned by the Foundation for Reading and Writing, about one in six Dutch 15-year-olds, around 18 percent, cannot understand the subtitles on television screens and films or the content of letters from the municipality or their school. Five years ago, in 2012, the figure was 13.8 percent. Find more [here](#).

## Refernet Slovakia: Graduate supply and demand mismatch

The country's first ever data comparing secondary and higher education graduates' fields of study and their jobs/positions have been published. They were made available by Trexima Ltd., a company that develops forecasts for public authorities. Put simply, only 20 % of secondary education graduates accepted jobs or positions fully, and another 20 % partly, corresponding to the programmes they had completed (Figure 1). The pattern for higher education graduates differs slightly, with 25 % fully and a little less than 20 % partially matching their education (Figure 2). These data present the situation more than five years after graduation; they only differ by a few percentage points from those related to less than five years after graduation. Read more [here](#).

## Skills publications

### Skill needs anticipation: systems and approaches - Analysis of stakeholder survey on skill needs assessment and anticipation



This publication is a product of the joint survey, among key constituents and partners, conducted by the International Labour Organization (ILO), Cedefop, the European Training Foundation (ETF) and the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). The survey addressed ministries of labour and education, and trade unions and employer organisations in 61 countries on systems, approaches and institutional frameworks for skills needs assessment and anticipation. It included questions about the partners, the modes of collaboration and coordination, the use of the outcomes in policy formulation, and the challenges in implementation. Download the report [here](#).

### Cedefop: Improving vocational education and training through data, analyses and exchanges



The European Union's (EU's) economic recovery has strengthened; unemployment is down and employment up. But the economic downturn has accelerated long-term trends of globalisation and digitalisation that demand new skills. Forecasts of a smaller available workforce due to demographic trends are also becoming a reality. Vocational education and training (VET) can help tackle these issues, especially as part of a

comprehensive policy approach. For example, without good quality jobs providing opportunities to learn new skills, highly qualified young people entering the labour market will be underused. Promoting equality, inclusion and solidarity requires learning and career pathways to help adults with low levels of education and new migrants to Europe into work; learning must be at the heart of European pillar of social rights. Find more [here](#).

## Stay connected to Skills Panorama



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## OECD: Harmonised Unemployment Rates (HURs) - Updated: March 2018

OECD unemployment rate stable at 5.5% in January 2018. Across the OECD area, 34.5 million people were unemployed, 1.9 million more than in April 2008. In the euro area, the unemployment rate was stable at 8.6% in January. The unemployment rate fell by 0.2 percentage point or more in Slovenia (down 0.3 percentage point, to 5.9%) and the Netherlands (down 0.2 percentage point, to 4.2%). By contrast, it increased by 0.2 percentage point in Italy (to 11.1%, returning to its November 2017 level). Find more [here](#).

## Forthcoming events

### CareersNet meeting

**Date:** 07 – 08/06/2018, **Place:** Thessaloniki, Greece

CareersNet, Cedefop's network for lifelong guidance and career development, will convene in Thessaloniki on 7 and 8 June 2018. Around 40 participants will meet, including the core national experts of the network and a selection of recognised European experts on lifelong guidance policy issues. The first day will be dedicated to methodological and strategic issues for the network's activity. The second day will be dedicated to thematic workshops on pressing issues for the development of effective career development support in Member States. Find more [here](#).

### Skills anticipation methods and practices: Identifying emerging technologies and skill needs for policy

**Date:** 14 – 15/06/2018, **Place:** Thessaloniki, Greece

To facilitate mutual learning on effective skills anticipation and skill matching and the exchange of good practices across EU Member States, Cedefop launched in 2016 a new thematic activity – 'Governance of EU skills anticipation and matching systems: in-depth country reviews'. The aim of the initiative is to provide close support to EU Member States in need of development, improvement or further refinement of the governance of their skills anticipation and matching systems. Find more [here](#).

### 3rd policy learning forum on defining and writing learning outcomes for VET qualifications

**Date:** 21 – 22/06/2018, **Place:** Thessaloniki, Greece

The third Policy Learning Forum (PLF) on the writing of learning outcomes in VET will build on the positive experiences from the **2016 PLF** on the same topic, further deepening the exchange of experiences between national experts in this area and experts from different parts of the world.

The PLF provides a platform for European cooperation on the application of learning outcomes; allowing for the identification of common challenges as well as solutions. Find more [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.

