

Development of a skills forecasting model

POLICY DEVELOPMENT

PRACTICAL MEASURE/INITIATIVE

 MALTA

Timeline

2016 Design 2017 Design 2018 Design 2019 Design 2020 Implementation
2021 Completed

ID number 28425

Background

The *National reform programme* (2016) highlighted the need for a more structured approach to the analysis of skills gaps and skills shortages through the setting up of a National Skills Council (NSC) through Subsidiary Legislation 327.547 alongside measures aimed at increasing skills levels overall.

For its part, Jobsplus (Malta's public employment services) contributes to improving the employability of the workforce in line with its legal mandate (Act XXXIX of 2018) and the priorities established in the National employment policy (2014) document. Jobsplus provides training courses and training schemes for assisting individuals wishing to prepare themselves for gainful occupation, or desiring to improve or update the quality of their knowledge and skills for the same purpose; and to provide support to trade testing boards in designing and conducting assessments to ascertain a person's proficiency or competences in a particular occupation.

Objectives

The development of the econometric model by Jobsplus is expected to inform policy-makers of future skill requirements. At the same time, the model can be utilised as a tool for creating different scenarios based on changes in the underlying assumptions. The comparison of results between scenarios can support impact assessments of policies and in fields such as education systems policies and migration policies.

Description

During 2018, work started on the design of an econometric model to forecast labour market demand and supply in Malta. The development of this model was contracted to the Institute of Economic Studies at the Slovak academy of sciences, whose expertise lies expressly in this area. Jobsplus constantly kept in touch with experts from this institute to oversee various tasks, such as the transmission of data from domestic sources, and to delineate specific preferences about the intended model's working, specifications and output. Quarterly meetings were held with the experts during which the progress to date on the construction of the model was presented. These meetings gave the parties involved the

opportunity to discuss the technical issues involved and to agree on future action. Consultations were held with the Ministry for Finance and the Central Bank of Malta, whose representatives gave expert advice on econometric issues surrounding the general equilibrium modelling of the Maltese economy.

2016 Design

Cedefop provided technical advice.

2017 Design

Implementation continued. No major developments

2018 Design

In 2018, Jobsplus set about finding expertise to assist it develop an econometric model designed to forecast labour market demand and supply in Malta.

2019 Design

During 2019, the skills forecasting model was updated and some final refinements were carried out in an effort to make the model more robust. Its implementation will start by Q1 2020.

The assessment unit will be working on the analysis of the present and future skills scenario. The skills development unit has to work on strengthening the upskilling processes and mechanisms while the industry-education hub will continue to work on enhancing the quality of work-based learning and the relevance of education curricula to industry needs. The strategy also identifies the need to augment the current focus on digital skills and artificial intelligence (AI) to include skills for a green economy and for improvements in labour productivity.

In 2019, Jobsplus issued a call for tenders for a survey to monitor the evolution of the labour market by gauging which occupations experience shortages or surpluses and how employers in Malta deal with such shortages or surplus.

2020 Implementation

Following a Cabinet reshuffle in November 2020, there was a change in Ministries' portfolio, the Ministry for Finance and Employment took on the responsibility for Jobsplus from the Ministry for Education. The skills forecasting model started to be implemented and currently the model is being used by Ministry for Finance and Employment (MFE) for economic and labour market analysis and policy.

2021 Completed

In 2021, the Ministry for Finance and Employment published the National Employment Policy (NEP) 2021-2030. Chapter five of the NEP outlines the forecasting exercise that was carried out together with a set of five future scenarios, using the structural annualised econometric model for Malta (SAMM), a modelling framework developed by the Economic Policy Department (EPD) within the Ministry for Finance and Employment in collaboration with Cambridge Econometrics. This model is used routinely for economic and labour market projections.

Bodies responsible

- Ministry for Education (MFED)(until 2022)
- Ministry of Education and Employment (MEDE) (until 2020)
- Jobsplus (Public Employment Service)

- Ministry for Finance and Employment (MFE) (until 2024)
- Ministry for Finance

Target group

Other stakeholders

National, regional and local authorities

Thematic categories

Governance of VET and lifelong learning

Coordinating VET and other policies

Engaging VET stakeholders and strengthening partnerships in VET

Establishing and developing skills intelligence systems

Subsystem

IVET CVET

Further reading

[Cedefop's project webpage](#)

[National employment policy 2014](#)

[Jobsplus occupational handbook](#)

[National Employment Policy 2021-30](#)

Related policy developments

2025 Implementation

The National Skills Council (NSC)

In November 2016, a National Skills Council (NSC) was set up to establish the institutional framework for the anticipation of skills needs in Malta. The NSC is made up of representatives from:

 MALTA

Type of development

Regulation/Legislation

Subsystem

IVET CVET

“ ... ” Cite as

Cedefop, & ReferNet. (2026). Development of a skills forecasting model: Malta. In Cedefop, & ReferNet. (2026). *Timeline of VET policies in Europe* (2025 update) [Online tool].

<https://www.cedefop.europa.eu/en/tools/timeline-vet-policies-europe/search/28425>