Comparing forecast results (skill supply)

Future development of the educational level of the population of Switzerland

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Abstract

The level of education is the most common indicator to quantify a country's stock of human capital. Its development is particularly important in a rapidly changing world in which knowledge plays a key role in international competitiveness and in a society with a greater need for qualified personnel.

The Swiss Federal Statistical Office (SFSO) has recently developed scenarios for the future development of the educational level as part of its ‘Education prospects’ project. The scenarios cover as completely as possible both internal processes regarding education in Switzerland, using a multi-state model, and also the import and export of human capital, an aspect that cannot be ignored in Switzerland as far as skill supply is concerned. This work thus enables not only the presentation of results on future trends for the educational level of the population as a whole, but also investigates future trends for the educational level of the foreign population in Switzerland, whether or not this population has been through schooling in Switzerland.

Although the methodology differs in several aspects to that used by Cedefop (2010), the results obtained for the next 10 years and the three broad ISCED levels are very close to the 2010-20 forecasts carried out by Cedefop.

As part of its ‘Education prospects’ project, the SFSO also makes forecasts on the numbers of students and graduates in the educational system. The current challenge, therefore, from the point of view of a global outlook on education in Switzerland, is to achieve a completely coherent linkage between the scenarios for the educational level of the Swiss population with those for the educational system. This entails linking scenarios based on very different sources. This aspect is currently being developed with regards to Swiss institutions of higher education.

For more information: www.eduperspectives-stat.admin.ch.