

ANTICIPATING EUROPE'S SKILL NEEDS

2-3 November 2006, University of Warwick, UK

The workshop is organised within the framework of Cedefop's international network on early identification of skill needs "Skillsnet" (www.trainingvillage.gr).

2006 represents the 25th Anniversary of the founding of the University of Warwick's Institute for Employment Research as well as the 20th Anniversary of the setting up of the Research Centre for Education and the Labour Market (ROA) at Maastricht University in the Netherlands. These two organisations are pleased to support Skillsnet and to contribute towards the development of better methods of Anticipating Europe's Future Skill Needs.

General information

Workshop venue University of Warwick, Radcliffe House Conference Centre, Coventry, CV4 7AL, United Kingdom

Organisers

- ⇒ European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training (CEDEFOP);
- ⇒ Institute for Employment Research (IER), University of Warwick, United Kingdom;
- ⇒ Research Centre for Education and the Labour Market (ROA), Maastricht University, the Netherlands.

No of participants Max. 40 - 50

Participants' profile Experts in (econometric) forecasting of occupations, skills and/or educational fields at national and European / international level. As the workshop will involve a series of short formal presentations, combined with interactive brainstorming sessions, the participants should be familiar with forecasting methodologies and medium-/ long-term forecasting models, as well as the data and classifications used in their countries for identification of skill needs at macro-level.

Working language English

Workshop rationale and objectives

The information deficit about future skill needs in Europe has been recognised for some time. CEDEFOP and other European organisations have been repeatedly approached with requests for better information on this issue. With the free movement of labour, much hope is given to increased mobility across European countries helping to reduce unemployment. The European labour market is now a reality on the EU policy agenda. At the same time, occupations, skills, competences and qualifications, which will be in demand in the future European labour market, are not very well identified. The "Integrated guidelines for growth and jobs" for 2005-2008 explicitly ask for a better identification of occupational needs and anticipation of future skill requirements as keys to adapting education and training systems to new skills and competence requirements. Finding better ways to obtain information on future skill needs in Europe, including joint European action, becomes a priority.

In October 2005, Skillsnet/CEDEFOP organised (in cooperation with Human Resource Development Authority (HRDA) in Cyprus and the Research Centre for Education and the Labour Market (ROA) in the Netherlands) an expert workshop exploring the feasibility of European skill needs forecasting. Experts in forecasting occupations, skills and/or educational fields from 13 European countries discussed different approaches, data availability and compatibility of classification. All participants agreed on the desirability of launching a European-wide skill needs forecasting exercise and asked CEDEFOP to continue with this initiative and to coordinate further steps. The decision taken was to proceed along two main paths:

- ⇒ in the short term to create a Pan-European forecasting model which would use data available for all Member States (for example LFS data);
- ⇒ in the longer term to involve all European countries in this exercise with a view to harmonising or matching sources used at national level, and with the possibility of creating a new core forecasting system for use by all European countries.

This initiative respects the needs of Member States and does not affect the subsidiarity principle: Pan-European skill needs forecasting will not replace existing national forecasting systems. It is a voluntary exercise and it is intended that it should complement, rather than replace, national forecasting.

The expert workshop in Warwick aims to build on this foundation, presenting various initiatives which contribute towards the development of a common approach to European skill needs forecasting. It will focus upon methods and data, including concrete suggestions for further practical steps and the gradual involvement of all European countries interested, including EEA/EFTA and candidate countries.

The workshop will:

- report on various developments towards producing a Pan-European forecasting model;
- present various country initiatives on common approaches to skill needs forecasting in Europe;
- compare the sets of consistent information provided by Member States prior to the meeting;
- identify data gaps and possible ways to fill the gaps;
- agree further concrete steps towards the development of a robust system for European skills need forecasting.

Draft agenda

Thursday, 2 November 2006	
09.00-09.30	Welcome and introduction by <i>Cedefop (Manfred Tessaring)</i> , <i>IER (Robert Lindley)</i> , <i>ROA (Hans Hejke)</i>
09.30-10.00	Brief overview of results and follow-up of previous activities and presentation on the workshop rationale, objectives and fundamental questions by Cedefop-Skillsnet team + questions
Remainder of the 1 st day	Developing a Pan-European approach to skills forecasting based on Eurostat LFS data and common classifications, with ideas and contributions from: CEDEFOP – The new project on Medium-term forecasts of occupational skill needs in Europe IER - Some initial benchmark projections ROA - Using the European LFS data FAS - Estimating Replacement demands and others.
11.00-11.30	<i>Coffee break</i>
12.00-12.30	Further discussion of data, methods and results
12.30-14.00	<i>Lunch</i>
14.00-15.30	Further discussion, including implications for general labour market policy
15.30-16.00	<i>Tea/Coffee break</i>
16.00-18.00	Detailed discussion with contributions from experts from individual Member States, focussing on topics/questions outlined by CEDEFOP in advance.

Friday, 3 November 2006	
08.30-10.30	Continuation of contributions from experts from individual Member States, including feedback and general discussion.
10.30-11.00	<i>Coffee break</i>
11.00-12.30	Discussion/brainstorming
12.30-13.00	Conclusions: further steps summarized by Cedefop
13.00	<i>End of the workshop and Lunch</i>

Contact details

Cedefop/Skillsnet

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