



Forecasting skill supply and demand in Europe: exploring alternative scenarios and developing better tools

SKILLSNET TECHNICAL WORKSHOP

14-15 June 2010, Thessaloniki, Greece

At the start of 2010 Cedefop published its first combined forecast of the demand for and supply of skills across Europe. The programme of work is now continuing, with activities intended to explore a range of alternative scenarios (building on these established benchmarks) and considering how the existing tools and methods can be extended and improved.

The project as a whole remains focussed on the improvement of quantitative methods for anticipation of the demand for and supply of skills at a pan-European level over the medium-term (a 5-10 year horizon). The research team is led by the Warwick Institute for Employment Research, in cooperation with Cambridge Econometrics, Alphametrics, the Research Centre for Education and the Labour Market, as well as a number of other experts. This is all taking place within the wider framework of Cedefop's international network on early identification of skill needs 'Skillsnet' (<http://www.cedefop.europa.eu/EN/about-cedefop/networks/skillsnet/index.aspx>).

General information

Workshop venue	Cedefop, Thessaloniki, Greece
Organisers	<ul style="list-style-type: none">⇒ European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training (Cedefop), Greece;⇒ Institute for Employment Research (IER), University of Warwick, United Kingdom;
No of participants	Max. 40
Participants' profile	Experts in forecasting and statistics on skill demands and supply, including: drivers of the changing pattern of demand for occupations and qualifications; demographic developments and labour supply projections; and statistics on labour demand, occupations, qualifications, education (participation, graduation, flows, and transition from education to the labour market).
Working language	English

Background to the workshop

Considerable progress has been made since the Skillsnet/Cedefop workshop held in Cyprus in 2005 first posed the question of whether or not it was possible to develop a system for regular pan-European skill needs forecasts. This is now a reality, but there remains much work to do to build on the foundations established over the past few years and to draw upon the wealth of knowledge and experience at national level.

The ongoing programme of research has been entrusted to a team comprising the IER, CE, ROA and AM, with help from various others. The research being undertaken is building on the foundations established in the period since 2005, beginning to establish a robust system for projecting both skills demand and supply at a pan-European level, as well as exploring the implications of these for skill imbalances and mismatches.

Workshop rationale and objectives

This latest workshop aims to take the process described above a further step forward, focusing on further development and developing new scenarios using the tools established so far. The workshop will provide an opportunity for Skillsnet members to comment on the latest results, as well as helping to shape future work priorities.

The workshop will:

- present an overview of the work planned for Year 2 of the Framework Programme, focusing on various technical modelling developments as well as the use of the models and other techniques for scenario development;
- provide opportunities to discuss in detail these methodological developments and the likely scenarios facing Europe over the next few years.
- Continue to involve national experts in the process, aiming to draw on their general knowledge and expertise as well as obtaining additional country specific insights.

Workshop structure and working methods

The Year 2 work programme comprises a number of inter-related *Tasks*. These will be briefly outlined and participants given an opportunity to contribute to the methodological development of the project and comment on key issues and topics by involvement in smaller *Country Working Groups* facilitated by Country Group Experts. Some papers and other materials will be circulated to participants in advance.

Agenda

Monday, 14 June 2010	
09:00-09:30	Arrival and registration of participants
	Chairperson: <i>Vladimir Kvetan</i> (Cedefop)
09:30-09:45	Welcome and opening <i>Manfred Tessaring</i> (Cedefop)
09:45-10:00	Introduction to the workshop <i>Vladimir Kvetan</i> (Cedefop)
10:00-10:30	Key Tasks for Year 2 (2010) <i>Rob Wilson</i> (IER)
10:30-11:00	General roundtable discussion
11:00-11:30	<i>Tea/Coffee break</i>
	Session 1 Chairperson: <i>Peter Szovics</i> (Cedefop)
11:30-12:30	Modelling and related developments Introduction by <i>Ben Kriechel</i> (ROA) and <i>Rob Wilson</i> (IER) Data and classification issues <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adding greater detail by occupation and qualification • Developing 'output harmonised' industry by occupation matrices Introduction by <i>Terry Ward</i> and <i>Robert Stehrer</i> (AM), and <i>Rob Wilson</i> (IER)
12:30-13:00	General roundtable discussion
13:00-14:30	<i>Lunch</i>
	Session 2 Chairperson: <i>Rob Wilson</i> (IER)
14:30-15:30	Developing alternative Scenarios <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quantitative scenarios, by <i>Hector Pollitt</i> (Cambridge Econometrics) • Qualitative scenarios, by <i>Tom Leney</i> (Institute of Education)
15:30-16:00	General roundtable discussion
16:00-16:30	<i>Tea/Coffee break</i>
	Session 3 Chairperson: <i>Antonio Ranieri</i> (Cedefop)
16:30-17:30	Discussion within country working groups of Scenarios and material from Session 1 (facilitated by CGEs)
17:30-18:00	Working group reports Presentation of key points by CGEs and further general discussion
18:00	<i>End of day one + departure to city centre (bus transfer)</i>
20:00	<i>Dinner</i>

Tuesday, 15 June 2010	
	<div>Session 4</div> <div>Chairperson: <i>Vladimir Kvetan</i> (Cedefop)</div>
09:30-09:50	Links to regional modelling work for DG Regio Introduction by <i>Ben Gardiner</i> and <i>Fabio Manca</i> (JRC-IPTS)
09:50-10:10	Migration and International comparisons Introduction by <i>Simonas Gausas</i> (PPMI) and <i>Jan Koucký</i> (EPC)
10:10-10:30	Skills upgrading and Occupational skills profiles Introduction by <i>Jan Koucký</i> (EPC) and <i>Ben Kriechel</i> (ROA)
10:30-10:50	Evaluation of the projections Introduction by <i>Ben Kriechel</i> (ROA) and <i>Rob Wilson</i> (IER)
10:50-11:30	General roundtable discussion
11:30-12:00	<i>Tea/Coffee break</i>
	<div>Session 5</div> <div>Chairperson: <i>Rob Wilson</i> (IER)</div>
12:00-13:00	Discussion within country working groups of material from Session 4 (facilitated by CGEs)
13:00-13:20	Working group reports Presentation of key points by CGEs and further general discussion
13:20-13:30	The way forward: final thoughts on the 2010 work programme and closing words <i>Manfred Tessaring</i> (Cedefop)
13:30	End of the workshop
14:15	Departure for airport (bus transfer)

Contact details

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