



# Forecasting skill supply and demand in Europe: new scenarios and better tools

## SKILLSNET TECHNICAL WORKSHOP

**25-26 October 2010, Bratislava**

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). Cedefop works with the research team 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

**Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family**  
Špitálska 4  
Bratislava  
Slovak Republic

### Organisers

- ⇒ European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training (Cedefop), Greece;
- ⇒ Institute for Employment Research (IER), University of Warwick, United Kingdom;
- ⇒ Ministry of Labour Social Affairs and Family, Slovak Republic

### 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 Cedefop's 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 improvement and developing new scenarios using the tools established so far. The workshop will provide an opportunity for Skillsnet country experts to comment on the latest results, as well as helping to shape future work priorities. It builds directly on the workshop held in Thessaloniki in June 2010.

The workshop will present an overview of the work carried out by the research team to date in 2010, focusing on the new scenarios that have been developed as well as the lessons learned from various technical modelling and related tasks.

It will provide opportunities to discuss in detail these methodological developments and the likely scenarios facing Europe over the next few years.

As in previous workshops the aim will be to involve country experts closely in the process, drawing on their general knowledge and expertise, as well as obtaining additional country specific insights.

## **Workshop structure and methods of working**

This second workshop for 2010 will follow a similar structure to that in June, giving opportunities to hear about all of the work being carried out in 2010 work programme. Papers summarising the latest work will be circulated in advance. Participants will be given an opportunity to comment on these in detail and to contribute in general to the methodological development of the project. As in the June workshop it is planned to make extensive use of small group sessions facilitated by Country Group Experts.

Participants have been asked to complete various questionnaires related to the project and the scenarios.

# Agenda

**Monday, 25 October 2010**

09:00-09:15	<b>Arrival and registration of participants</b>
	<b>Session 1</b> <span style="float: right;">Chairperson: <i>Alena Zukersteinova</i>, Cedefop</span>
09:15-09:30	<b>Welcome and opening</b> <i>Lucia Nicholsonová</i> (State Secretary, Ministry of Labour Soc. Affairs & Family)
09:30-09:45	<b>Introduction to the workshop</b> <i>Vladimir Kvetan</i> (Cedefop)
09:45-10:15	<b>The new benchmark and policy scenarios</b> <i>Hector Pollitt</i> (CE), <i>Tom Leney</i> (DTI) and <i>Rob Wilson</i> (IER)
10:15-10:30	<b>Discussion</b>
10:30-11:00	<i>Tea/Coffee break</i>
	<b>Session 2</b> <span style="float: right;">Chairperson: <i>Alena Zukersteinova</i>, Cedefop</span>
11:00-11:30	<b>Modelling and related developments – 1</b> <b>Demand for and supply of skills</b> Brief introduction by <i>Ben Kriechel</i> (ROA), <i>Rob Wilson</i> and <i>Derek Bosworth</i> (IER) – (to include stock flow model; econometric developments; replacement demands; skills upgrading, etc)
11:30-12:00	<b>Discussion</b>
12:00-13:00	<b>Working groups Session 1</b> (on scenarios & demand for and supply of skills)
13:00-14:00	<i>Lunch Break</i>
	<b>Session 3</b> <span style="float: right;">Chairperson: <i>Vladimir Kvetan</i>, Cedefop</span>
14:00-14:30	<b>Modelling and related developments – 2</b> <b>Migration and international comparisons</b> Brief introduction by <i>Simonas Gausas</i> (PPMI) and <i>Jan Koucký</i> (EPC)
14:30-15:00	<b>Occupational skills profiles and data &amp; classification issues</b> Brief introduction by <i>Jan Koucký</i> (EPC), <i>Terry Ward</i> and <i>Robert Stehrer</i> (AM)
15:00-15:30	<b>Discussion</b>
15:30-16:00	<i>Tea/Coffee break</i>
16:00-17:00	<b>Working groups Session 2</b> (on migration, international comparisons, skills profiles and data issues)
17:00	End of day one
19:30	<i>Dinner</i>

## Tuesday, 26 October 2010

### **Session 4**

Chairperson: *Vladimir Kvetan*, Cedefop

- 09:00-10:00 **Evaluation:**  
An initial quantitative assessment by *Hector Pollitt* (CE) and *Rob Wilson* (IER)  
A qualitative assessment by *Ben Kriechel* (ROA)
- 10:00-10:30 **Working groups Session 3** (on evaluation)

10:30-11:00 *Tea/Coffee break*

### **Session 5**

Chairperson: *Alena Zukersteinova*, Cedefop

- 11:00-11:45 **Initial feedback on day one:  
Key points emerging from working groups sessions**  
Brief presentation of key points by CGEs
- 11:45-12:15 **Completing the work programme for 2010 and looking forward to 2011**  
*Vladimir Kvetan* (Cedefop) and *Rob Wilson* (IER)
- 12:15-12:45 **Final general roundtable discussion**
- 12:45-13:00 **Concluding remarks**
- 13:00 **End of workshop**

## Contact details

### **Cedefop Skills Analysis Team**

Alena Zukersteinova, Vladimir Kvetan, Roula Panagiotou

PO Box 22427, 55102 Thessaloniki, Greece

Tel: +(30) 2310 490 /194/097/074/078

fax: +(30) 2310 490 117

E-mail: [skills-analysis@cedefop.europa.eu](mailto:skills-analysis@cedefop.europa.eu)

Cedefop homepage: <http://www.cedefop.europa.eu/EN/>

Skillsnet website: <http://www.cedefop.europa.eu/EN/about-cedefop/networks/skillsnet/index.aspx>