



Forecasting skill supply and demand in Europe:

Setting the scene for 2016 forecasts

Skillsnet technical workshop

15-16 September 2014, Sapienza University Rome, Italy

General information

Workshop venue	Sapienza University, Rome, Italy
Organisers	European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training (Cedefop), Greece; Institute for Employment Research (IER), University of Warwick, United Kingdom; Sapienza University, Rome, Italy.
No. of participants	Maximum 50 (restricted participation based on invitations)
Participants' profile	National experts in skills forecasting and labour market development selected by Cedefop
Working language	English

Introduction

Cedefop organises regular technical workshops to discuss and validate its forecasting methodology as well as the plausibility of the results for individual countries and for Europe overall. In 2013, Cedefop has established an expert network of labour market forecasters and skills analysts to make this process more formal. The main purpose of this particular workshop is to set up a good basis for the development of the new forecasts. We would like to invite members of the expert network to help us to find answers to key methodological challenges.

Workshop rationale and objectives

The workshop will provide an opportunity to bring together the research team, national experts and Cedefop experts to discuss:

- progress in adopting new ISCO and NACE classifications,
- economic developments in the Member States and use of DG ECFIN forecasts,
- impact of new demographic forecasts (Eurostat population projections 2013),
- improvements in the estimation of replacement demand and indicators of imbalances,
- development of a framework for new policy scenarios,
- further development of the Occupational Skills Profiles.

The aim is to involve national experts closely in the process, drawing on their general knowledge and expertise, as well as obtaining substantial country specific insights.

Workshop structure and methods of working

The workshop will be organised as a series of presentations and discussions. Brief working notes will be circulated in advance. These will be prepared by team members so that participants are informed on the key issues to be debated. Brief notes will replace draft reports usually prepared for previous workshops. We believe that this will be more flexible approach giving experts sufficient time for preparation.

The discussions within groups of experts are planned to be organised at the beginning of each day (sessions 1 and 5). We will adopt a modified world café approach for discussions. There will be four groups organised for each session. Each group will discuss one issue and will be facilitated by the team expert while the country group expert (CGE) will act as a rapporteur. There will be 15-20 minutes for discussion within the group. After that the national experts will move on to discuss another topic. The facilitator and rapporteur will continue the discussion with another group. The team members and rapporteurs will give their views on the discussion within the group in session 6.

Questionnaires will also be mailed out in advance asking for opinions on key issues/topics. This questionnaire will serve as an indication of preference related to different issues (using of DG ECFIN forecast vs. national forecast, using NA estimates vs. LFS estimates, etc.). Similar questionnaire will be distributed after the workshop to assess possible change of position based on discussion at the workshop.

The final part of the workshop (the afternoon of the day 2) will be focussed on discussion on new methodological achievements in the work on *Occupational Skills Profiles*. Short presentations will be delivered by Cedefop, IER, ROA and EPC. To gain the best possible input from the discussion, four country working groups will be organised.

Agenda

Monday 15th September

09:00 – 09:30	<i>Arrival and registration</i>
09:30 – 10:00	<i>Welcome and introduction</i> Alena Zukersteinova and Vladimir Kvetan (Cedefop), Rob Wilson (IER)
	<i>Chair: Cedefop</i>
10:00 – 11:30	Session 1: Working group discussion on four key topics/issues Facilitated by a team member with CGEs acting as rapporteurs, (lead by, details to be confirmed): <ul style="list-style-type: none">– Comments on the current results and country forecasts (Cedefop)– Treatment of ISCO/NACE revisions (AM/IER)– Use of LFS vs. NA data; use of National vs. DG ECFIN forecasts (CE/IER)– Eurostat population projections (CE)
11:30 – 12:00	<i>Coffee break</i>
12:00 – 13:00	Session 2: Presentation of new methodological developments <ul style="list-style-type: none">– Current development of Imbalance indicators (ERC)– Treatment of the Replacement demands (ROA)
13:00 – 14:30	<i>Lunch</i>
14:30 – 16:00	Session 3: Further analysis of the results and policy scenarios <ul style="list-style-type: none">– Skills forecasts and EU Skills Panorama (Cedefop)– Focus on the future (sectoral dimension) (Cedefop, TG/IER)– Policy scenarios EU2020 targets vs. labour force (Cedefop, CE/TL/EC)
16:00 – 16:30	<i>Coffee break</i>
16:30 – 17:30	Session 4: CGE modelling <ul style="list-style-type: none">– FGB approach – methods and implications 20 min (FGB)– IER approach – methods and implications 20 min (IER)– General discussion 20 min
17:30	<i>End of day 1</i>
20:00	<i>Dinner</i>

Tuesday 16th September

09:00 – 09:30 *Arrival*

Chair: *Cedefop*

09:30 – 11:30 **Session 5: Discussion within country groups**

- Indicators
- Policy scenarios
- Replacement demand
- CGE and possible further ways of development

11:30 – 12:00 *Coffee break*

12:00 – 13:00 **Session 6: Reaction of the team members**

Terry, Robert, Ben, ROA, CE, IER, Cedefop

13:00 – 14:30 *Lunch*

14:30 – 16:00 **Session 7a: Methodological discussion on Occupational Skills Profiles and related work**

- Presentation by IER
- Presentation by EPC
- Presentation by ROA

16:00 – 16:30 *Coffee break*

16:30 – 17:00 **Session 7b: Methodological discussion on Occupational Skills Profiles and related work**

Discussion in the small (country) working groups

17:00 – 17:30 **Session 8: Closing remarks**

Final plenary discussion/roundtable

17:30 *End of the workshop*