

**PRESS RELEASE**

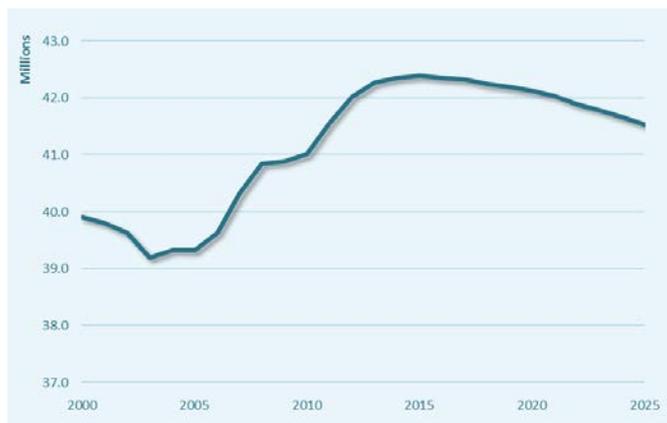
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## Skill supply and demand forecasts – Germany’s coming of age

### Demography as well as economics is changing job trends

Germany is one of several countries, including France, Austria Sweden and the UK, where employment is already higher than before the economic crisis. However, despite economic growth, between now and 2025 employment in Germany is forecast to fall due to constraints on the labour supply (Figure 1).

Figure 1. **Past and forecast employment, Germany (millions)**



Source: Cedefop skills forecasts (2015).

The forecasts produced by Cedefop - an EU agency that analyses training and the labour market – show that Germany total job opportunities include new jobs and vacancies arising to replace people who either go on to other jobs or leave the labour market, for example due to retirement. Cedefop forecasts that up to 2025, 90% of job opportunities in Europe, but almost all job opportunities in Germany will arise because of the need to replace people.

The demographic forecast for Germany shows why. In Germany the numbers of people aged 55 or older either in or looking for work will increase notably while all other age groups, except those aged between 35 and 39, numbers are forecast to decline (Figure 2). Similar trends in the ageing of the labour force are forecast for other countries, including Greece, Estonia, Spain, Latvia, Lithuania, Portugal and Slovenia.

Figure 2 **Changes in working age population and labour force by age, 2013-25, Germany (%)**



Source: Cedefop skills forecasts (2015).

As the labour force ages, more people leave it to retire. But the demographic trends also imply that significant numbers of people working age are outside the labour market for reasons, such as family responsibilities, illness or disability, or because they have given up hope of finding a job. To increase employment levels, as well as economic growth, Germany needs to find ways, including training, to bring these people, many of them well-qualified into its labour force.

### Notes to editors

- Cedefop skill supply and demand forecasts up to 2025 take account of global economic developments up to October 2014. Forecasts assume a modest economic recovery will slowly increase confidence in the EU, leading to higher investment, consumer spending and exports. Inflation stays in target range and interest rates low, while higher tax revenues help governments reduce debt. Assumptions reflect the latest Eurostat population forecast (Europop 2013) and the European Commission's short-term macroeconomic forecast (November 2014).
- Cedefop's forecasts cover 28 EU Member States plus Iceland, Norway and Switzerland. Results, assumptions and methodology are regularly updated and reviewed by national experts. Forecasts use harmonised data and methodology to allow cross-country comparisons and do not substitute national forecasts. Employment data correspond to those reported in national accounts.
- **Forecasts for the EU and each Member State are available [here](#).**

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### Contact

Press Officer: Rosy Voudouri  
Tel: +30 2310 490012, e-mail: [rosy.voudouri@cedefop.europa.eu](mailto:rosy.voudouri@cedefop.europa.eu)

Department contact: Steve Bainbridge

Tel: +30 2310 490029, e-mail: [steve.bainbridge@cedefop.europa.eu](mailto:steve.bainbridge@cedefop.europa.eu)

Head of Department for Communication: Gerd Oskar Bausewein

Tel: +30 2310 490288, e-mail: [gerd-oskar.bausewein@cedefop.europa.eu](mailto:gerd-oskar.bausewein@cedefop.europa.eu)

### **About Cedefop**

The European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training (Cedefop), an agency of the European Union based in Thessaloniki, Greece, supports European policy-making in the field of vocational education and training. [www.cedefop.europa.eu](http://www.cedefop.europa.eu)

