

# 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/skillsnet](http://www.trainingvillage.gr/skillsnet)).

2006 represents the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the founding of the **University of Warwick's Institute for Employment Research** as well as the 20<sup>th</sup> 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), Greece;
- ⇒ 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 to help 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, and related strategy documents, explicitly ask European countries to identify occupational needs and anticipate 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 a European skill needs forecasting approach. 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 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 data from the European labour force surveys);
- ⇒ 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 intended to 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 on further concrete steps towards the development of a robust system for European skills need forecasting.

# Agenda

Thursday, 2 November 2006

Chairperson: *Manfred Tessaring*

09.00-09.30 **Welcome and introduction by**

*Manfred Tessaring* (Cedefop)

*Robert Lindley* (IER)

*Hans Heijke* (ROA)

09.30-10.00 **Brief overview of results and follow-up of previous activities**

*Alena Zukersteinova* (Cedefop Skillsnet team)

**Workshop rationale and objectives**

*Olga Strietska-Ilina* (Cedefop Skillsnet team)

10.00-10.30 **The new Skillsnet project on medium-term forecasting skill needs in Europe: main objectives, approaches and tasks**

10.30-11.00 *Coffee break*

Chairperson: *Alena Zukersteinova*

11:00-11.45 **Pan-European employment projections: some preliminary results**

*Rob Wilson* (IER)

Discussion

11.45-12.30 **Skills structure of EU countries: Results of developments in industry structure or technological change?**

*Frank Cörvers* (ROA)

Discussion

12.30-14.00 *Lunch*

Chairperson: *Frank Cörvers*

14:00-14:30 **EU labour market, job structures and qualification requirements**

*Jan Koucky* (Centre for Education Policy)

Discussion

14.30-15.00 **The cohort component method of deriving replacement demand – lessons from Ireland**

*Roger Fox* (FAS)

Discussion

15.00-15.30 **Forecasts in the French Ministry of Education: Methodology using international classifications and some results for France**

*Claude Savageot* (French Ministry of Education)

Discussion

15.30-16.00 *Tea/Coffee break*

Chairperson: *Rob Wilson*

16.00-17.30 **Contributions from experts from individual Member States, focussing upon topics outlined by Cedefop in advance**

20.00 *Dinner*

**Friday, 3 November 2006**

Chairperson: *Rob Wilson*

09.00-10.30 **Continuation of contributions by experts from individual Member States, including feedback and general discussion**

10.30-11.00 *Coffee break*

Chairperson: *Olga Strietska-Ilina*

11.00-12.30 **Session on supply side**

Introduction by *Manfred Tessaring* (Cedefop)

Discussion

12.30-13.00 **Conclusions: further steps summarized by Cedefop**

13.00 *End of the workshop and Lunch*

## Contact details

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