

Medium-term forecast of occupational skill needs in Europe: interim results

Early identification of skill needs network Skillsnet

3RD TECHNICAL WORKSHOP
7-8 May 2007, Maastricht, the Netherlands

The workshop's main objective is to get feedback from country experts on the interim results of medium-term forecast of occupational skill needs in Europe. The forecast is being developed and conducted by a team of researchers from the Warwick Institute for Employment Research (IER), Cambridge Econometrics (CE) and the Research Centre for Education and the Labour Market (ROA), within the framework of Cedefop's international network on early identification of skill needs 'Skillsnet' (www.trainingvillage.gr/skillsnet).

ROA and the Faculty of Economics and Business Administration (FEBA) of Maastricht University are pleased to be the hosts of the workshop on 7-8 May in Maastricht.

General information

Workshop venue Faculty of Economics and Business Administration,
Maastricht University, Tongersestraat 53, Room H.006

Organisers

- ⇒ Research Centre for Education and the Labour Market (ROA), Maastricht University, the Netherlands;
- ⇒ European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training (Cedefop), Greece;
- ⇒ Institute for Employment Research (IER), University of Warwick, United Kingdom;
- ⇒ Cambridge Econometrics (CE), United Kingdom.

No of participants Max. 40

Participants' profile Experts in (econometric) forecasting of occupations, skills and/or educational fields at national and European/international level. Participants are expected to be familiar with labour market forecasting methodologies and models, National Accounts and/or Labour Force Survey data, and results of forecasting skill needs in their countries at macro-level

Working language English

Background of the workshop

In October 2005, Skillsnet/Cedefop organised in **Cyprus** (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. All participants agreed on the desirability of launching a European-wide skill needs forecasting exercise and asked Cedefop to continue with this initiative¹ 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 Eurostat data, such as LFS);
- ⇒ in the longer term to involve all European countries in this exercise with the view to harmonise or match sources used at national level, creating a new core forecasting system for use by all European countries.

The expert workshop held in **Warwick** in November 2006 aimed to build on this foundation, presenting various initiatives which might contribute towards the development of a common approach to European skill needs forecasting. At this event Cedefop announced that, following a competitive response to an Open Call for Tender, a research team comprising IER, CE and ROA, had been awarded funding for developing a set of *Medium-term forecasts of occupational skill needs in Europe*. Some preliminary results demonstrating the feasibility of producing a regular and consistent set of Pan-European projections were presented. These results and the detailed debate amongst the assembled experts also highlighted some of the technical and other problems facing such a project.

Workshop rationale and objectives

This Technical Workshop, taking place in **Maastricht**, aims to take this process a further step forward, focusing upon the interim results of the medium-term forecast of occupational skill needs in Europe.

The workshop will:

- report on various developments towards producing a Pan-European forecasting model;
- present interim results of the medium-term forecast of occupational skill needs in Europe;
- discuss with Member States related data quality, possible scenarios and approaches to modelling replacement needs;
- identify data gaps and possible ways to fill the gaps;
- agree on further concrete steps towards the development of a high-quality Pan-European forecast.

¹ 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.

Agenda

Monday, 7 May 2007	
08.30-09.00	Registration of participants
	Chairperson: <i>Frank Cörvers</i> (ROA)
09.00-09.30	Welcome and introduction <i>Jos Lemmink</i> (Dean of FEBA) <i>Manfred Tessaring</i> (Cedefop) <i>Hans Heijke</i> (ROA)
09.30-09.45	Workshop rationale and objectives <i>Alena Zukersteinova</i> (Cedefop)
09.45-10.30	The Skillsnet project on <i>Medium-term forecasts of occupational skill needs in Europe: an overview</i> <i>Rob Wilson</i> (IER)
10.30-11.00	<i>Tea/Coffee break</i>
	Chairperson: <i>Olga Strietska-Ilina</i> (Skillsnet)
11:00-12.00	Roundtable discussion: Comparing National Accounts (NA) and European Labour Survey (ELFS) Introduction by <i>Ilias Livanos</i> (IER)
12.00-12.30	Roundtable discussion: Orientation in E3ME model Introduction by <i>Ben Gardiner</i> (CE)
12.30-14.00	<i>Lunch at Feestzaal Bouillonstraat 1-3</i>
	Chairperson: <i>Rob Wilson</i> (IER)
14:00-15:30	Roundtable discussion: E3ME employment forecasts and scenarios Introduction by <i>Hector Pollitt</i> (CE)
15.30-16.00	<i>Tea/Coffee break</i>
	Chairperson: <i>Ben Kriechel</i> (ROA)
16.00-17.30	Roundtable discussion: i. Expansion demand and changes in occupational structure ii An Introduction to the Country Workbooks Introduction by <i>Rob Wilson and Ilias Livanos</i> (IER)
19.30	<i>Dinner at Kruisherhotel</i>

Tuesday, 8 May 2007	
Chairperson: <i>Ben Gardiner</i> (CE)	
09.00-10.00	Roundtable discussion: Replacement demand and cohort change analysis Introduction by <i>Ben Kriechel</i> (ROA)
10.00-11.00	Summarizing the feedback from country experts <i>Olga Strietska-Ilina</i> (Skillsnet) Discussion
11.00-11.30	<i>Tea/Coffee break</i>
Chairperson: <i>Alena Zukersteinova</i> (Cedefop)	
12.00-13.00	Further steps <i>Manfred Tessaring</i> (Cedefop) <i>Rob Wilson</i> (IER) Discussion
13.00	<i>End of the workshop and lunch at Kruisherhotel</i>

Contact details

Cedefop/Skillsnet

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