

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

Early identification of skill needs network Skillsnet

4TH TECHNICAL WORKSHOP
8-9 November 2007, Vienna, Austria

The workshop's main objective is to discuss with country experts the (draft) final 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).

The Austrian Institute for Advanced Studies is pleased to be the host of the workshop on 8-9 November in Vienna.

General information

Workshop venue Inter City Hotel, Vienna, Mariahilfer Straße 122 / Ecke Kaiserstraße

Organisers

- ⇒ Institute for Advanced Studies, Vienna, Austria;
- ⇒ 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;
- ⇒ 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 to 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.

The technical workshop held in **Maastricht** in May 2007 had the main objective of getting feedback from country experts on the interim results from the *Medium-term forecasts of occupational skill needs in Europe* project. The workshop reported on various developments towards producing a Pan-European forecasting model, presented interim results and discussed with experts related data quality issues, possible scenarios and approaches to modelling replacement demand.

Workshop rationale and objectives

This technical workshop, taking place in **Vienna**, aims to take this process a further step forward, focusing upon the (draft) final results of the *Medium-term forecast of occupational skill needs in Europe* project.

The workshop will:

- present the (draft) final results of the medium-term forecast of occupational skill needs in Europe in detail, including details of the methodology used;
- discuss and verify with Member States related data quality, applied scenarios and final outcomes of the medium-term forecast;
- discuss identified obstacles and data gaps and possible ways to fill these gaps in the future;
- agree on further steps towards the development of a system of producing high-quality Pan-European forecasts on a regular basis.

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

Thursday, 8 November 2007	
08.30-09.00	Registration of participants
Chairperson: <i>Lorenz Lassnigg</i> (IHS)	
09.00-09.30	Welcome and introduction <i>Lorenz Lassnigg</i> (IHS) <i>Manfred Tessaring</i> (Cedefop)
09.30-09.45	Workshop rationale and objectives <i>Alena Zukersteinova</i> (Cedefop)
09.45-10.30	Medium-term forecasts of occupational skill needs in Europe: an overview <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: E3ME benchmark employment forecasts and alternative scenarios Introduction by <i>Hector Pollitt</i> (CE)
12.00-12.30	Roundtable discussion: Expansion demands and changes in occupational structure Introduction by <i>Ilias Livanos</i> (IER)
12.30-14.00	<i>Lunch</i>
Chairperson: <i>Rob Wilson</i> (IER)	
14:00-15:30	Roundtable discussion: Replacement demand and cohort change analysis: results Introduction by <i>Frank Cörvers</i> / <i>Ben Kriechel</i> (ROA)
15.30-16.00	<i>Tea/Coffee break</i>
Chairperson: <i>Ben Kriechel</i> (ROA)	
16.00-17.30	Roundtable discussion: An introduction to the results in detail: the Country Workbooks Introduction by <i>Rob Wilson</i> (IER)
19.30	<i>Dinner at tavern 10er Marie</i>

Website of the tavern **10er Marie**

http://www.fuhrgassl-huber.at/piv_e/archive.php?c=m_main&w=&t=m_front.html

Friday, 9 November 2007	
Chairperson: <i>Ben Gardiner (CE)</i>	
09.00-11.00	<p>Roundtable discussion:</p> <p>Detailed feedback from the country experts</p> <p>Introduction by <i>Rob Wilson (IER)</i></p> <p>Experts will be asked come prepared with written comments, generally and for their own country, to be circulated to all participants at the workshop. These will be structured around a small number of specific tables and charts circulated in advance by the project team.</p> <p>The discussion will be organised as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. General (macro) overview, including the alternative scenarios 2. Sectoral results 3. Expansion demands (including qualifications) 4. Replacement needs 5. Any other comments <p>Rather than present a prepared speech, experts should be prepared to contribute to a general discussion structured around these headings.</p>
11.00-11.30	<i>Tea/Coffee break</i>
Chairperson: <i>Alena Zukersteinova (Cedefop)</i>	
11.30-12.00	<p>Summarizing the feedback from country experts</p> <p><i>Olga Strietska-Ilina (Skillsnet)</i></p> <p>Discussion</p>
12.00-13.00	<p>Future steps</p> <p><i>Manfred Tessaring (Cedefop)</i></p> <p>Discussion</p>
13.00	<i>End of the workshop and lunch</i>

Contact details

Cedefop/Skillsnet

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