



Medium-term forecast of skills supply in Europe: interim results

SKILLSNET TECHNICAL WORKSHOP

2-3 June 2008, Thessaloniki, Greece

The workshop's main objective is to familiarise country experts with the Cedefop project on the medium-term forecast of skills supply in Europe and to get their feedback on interim results. The forecast is being developed 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).

General information

Workshop venue European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training (Cedefop), Europe 123, Thessaloniki (Pylea)

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;
- ⇒ Cambridge Econometrics (CE), United Kingdom.

No of participants Max. 40

Participants' profile Experts in statistics on demographic development and labour supply projections, and statistics on education (participation, graduation, flows, transition from education to the labour market)

Working language English

Background to the workshop

In October 2005, Skillsnet/Cedefop organised in Cyprus 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.

Following the decision Cedefop launched the project ***Medium-term forecasts of occupational skill needs in Europe***, limited in its first phase to the demand side. A research team comprising IER, ROA and CE was entrusted to carry out this project. Some preliminary results demonstrating the feasibility of producing a regular and consistent set of Pan-European projections were presented. Regular expert workshops reported on developments towards producing a Pan-European forecasting model, presented results achieved and discussed with experts related data quality issues, possible scenarios and approaches to modelling expansion and replacement demand. The final results were announced at Cedefop's Agora conference "Skills for Europe's future" which took place in Thessaloniki in February 2008.

In the meantime, Cedefop/Skillsnet launched a second phase of the project ***Medium-term forecast of skills supply in Europe***. The main objective is to develop and carry out a forecast of the supply of skills in Europe based on available data. The intention is also to compare the results with those of the demand side (the first phase) and provide an indication of possible imbalances and mismatches between supply of and demand for skills on the labour market.

Workshop rationale and objectives

The workshop aims to take the process described above a further step forward, focusing on the interim results of the *Medium-term forecast of skills supply in Europe* and identification of possible future imbalances on the labour market.

The workshop will:

- present the interim results of the medium-term forecast of skills supply in Europe in detail, including details of the methodology used;
- discuss and verify with Member States related data quality, applied scenarios and approaches to modelling skill supply across Europe;
- discuss identified obstacles and data gaps and possible ways to fill these gaps in the future;
- discuss possible ways to identify the nature and scope of possible skill imbalances

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, 2 June 2008	
09.00-09.30	Registration of participants
	Chairperson: <i>Manfred Tessaring</i> (Cedefop)
09.30-09.45	Welcome and introduction <i>Manfred Tessaring</i> (Cedefop)
09.45-10.00	Workshop rationale and objectives <i>Alena Zukersteinova</i> (Cedefop)
10.00-11.00	Medium-term forecasts of skill supply in Europe: an overview <i>Rob Wilson</i> (IER)
11.00-11.30	<i>Tea/Coffee break</i>
	Chairperson: <i>Olga Strietska-Ilina</i> (Skillsnet)
11.30-13.00	Roundtable discussion: Development of general demographic and labour supply projections within the E3ME framework Introduction by <i>Hector Pollitt</i> (CE)
13.00-14.30	<i>Lunch</i>
	Chairperson: <i>Frank Cörvers</i> (ROA)
14.30-16.00	Roundtable discussion: Trends in stocks of those acquiring qualifications: Multilogit models based on LFS data Introduction by <i>Ilias Livanos</i> (IER)
16.00-16.30	<i>Tea/Coffee break</i>
	Chairperson: <i>Rob Wilson</i> (IER)
16.30-17.30	Roundtable discussion: Use of Unesco/OECD/Eurostat flow data to model the supply of qualifications Introduction by <i>Arnaud Dupuy</i> (ROA)
20.00	<i>Dinner at tavern BIT BAZAR</i>

Tuesday, 3 June 2008

Chairperson: *Torsten Dunkel* (Cedefop)

09.30-11.00 Roundtable discussion:

Detailed feedback and data provision by country experts

Introduction by *Rob Wilson* (IER)

Experts will be asked to prepare in advance a brief note on current trends, and to collate relevant data on stocks and flows by ISCED level (historical and any future projections), where available for their country.

Rather than present a prepared speech, experts should be prepared to contribute in the session to general discussion structured around this topic.

11.00-11.30 *Tea/Coffee break*

Chairperson: *Alena Zukersteinova* (Cedefop)

11.30-12.00 Roundtable discussion:

Possible ways to identify future labour market imbalances

Introduction by *Frank Cörvers* (ROA)

12.00-12.30 **Summarizing the feedback from country experts**

Olga Strietska-Ilina (Skillsnet)

Discussion

12.30-13.00 **Future steps**

Manfred Tessaring (Cedefop)

Discussion

13.00 *End of the workshop and lunch*

Contact details

Cedefop/Skillsnet

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