



# Forecasting skill supply and demand in Europe: interim results

## SKILLSNET TECHNICAL WORKSHOP

**15-16 October 2009, Valletta, Malta**

Cedefop continues its forecasting activities with a new project entitled *Forecasting skill supply and demand in Europe*. The project is focussing on the improvement of quantitative methods for anticipation of the demand for and supply of skills at a pan-European level in medium-term.

The research team is led by the Warwick Institute for Employment Research, and includes also Cambridge Econometrics (both from the UK), Alphametrics (Belgium), the Research Centre for Education and the Labour Market ROA (Netherlands), as well as a number of other experts, including EPC (from the Czech Republic). This is all taking place within the wider framework of Cedefop's international network on early identification of skill needs '*Skillsnet*' ([www.cedefop.europa.eu/skillsnet](http://www.cedefop.europa.eu/skillsnet)).

## General information

**Workshop venue** Old University Building, Valletta, Malta

### Organisers

- ⇒ European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training (Cedefop), Greece
- ⇒ National Commission for Higher Education (NCHE), Malta

**No of participants** Max. 40

**Participants' profile** Experts in forecasting and statistics on skill demands and supply, including: drivers of the changing pattern of demand for occupations and qualifications; demographic developments and labour supply projections; and statistics on labour demand, occupations, qualifications, education (participation, graduation, flows, and transition from education to the labour market)

**Working language** English

## Background to the workshop

In October 2005, Skillsnet/Cedefop organised an expert workshop in Cyprus, to explore the feasibility of a pan-European skill needs forecasting approach. A decision was taken to proceed along two main paths:

- ⇒ in the short term to explore the development of a pan-European forecasting framework, using data available for all Member States and common models and methods;
- ⇒ in the longer term to involve all European countries with the aim of harmonising and matching sources and methods used at individual country level, creating a new core forecasting system for use by all European countries.

Following this decision Cedefop launched a pilot project on developing **Medium-term forecasts of occupational skill needs in Europe**, focusing on the demand side. A research team comprising IER, ROA and CE was entrusted to carry out this work. Preliminary results demonstrating the feasibility of producing a regular and consistent set of pan-European projections were published at Cedefop's Agora conference "Skills for Europe's future" which took place in Thessaloniki in February 2008. This was complemented in 2008 by a second study undertaken by the same team, entitled **Medium-term forecast of skills supply in Europe**. The main objective of this project was to develop data sources, models and methods for conducting forecasts of the supply of skills at a pan-European level, based on available data, and to begin to explore how these compared with the previous demand projections. The results of this project will be announced at Cedefop's June 2009 Agora event "Matching skills and jobs: anticipating needs in challenging times".

The new project is intended to build on these foundations and to develop a robust system for projecting both skills demand and supply at a pan-European level and to explore the implications of these for skill imbalances and mismatches.

## Workshop rationale and objectives

This workshop aims to take the process described above a further step forward, focusing on further development and updating both skill supply and demand projections in a consistent fashion. The workshop will provide an opportunity for *Skillsnet* members to comment on the latest results as well as helping to shape future work priorities.

The workshop will:

- ⇒ present an overview of the work in the new Framework Programme conducted this year, focusing on the new quantitative results;
- ⇒ provide a critical reassessment of the basic LFS data which underlie both the demand and supply estimates;
- ⇒ present and discuss the initial updates of the main demand, supply projections and their implications for imbalances and mismatches;
- ⇒ provide opportunities to discuss new methodological developments and the work programme for 2010-2011.

## Draft agenda

Thursday, 15 October 2009	
09.30-10.00	<b>Arrival and registration of participants</b> Chairperson: <i>Alena Zukersteinova</i> (Cedefop)
10.00-10.20	<b>Welcome and introduction to the workshop</b> <i>Alena Zukersteinova</i> (Cedefop) and <i>Philip von Brockdorff</i> (NCHE)
10.20-11.00	<b>New projections of skill supply and demand in Europe: an overview</b> <i>Rob Wilson</i> (IER)
11.00-11.30	<i>Tea/Coffee break</i>
	Chairperson: <i>Peter Szovics</i> (Cedefop)
11.30-12.30	Roundtable discussion: <b>Using LFS data for estimating changes in skill demand and supply at a pan-European level</b> Introduction by <i>Terry Ward</i> and <i>Robert Stehrer</i> (Alphametrics)
12.30-13.30	Roundtable discussion: <b>Macroeconomic scenarios for skill demand and supply projections: the recession and beyond</b> Introduction by <i>Hector Pollitt</i> (CE)
13.30-14.30	<i>Lunch</i>
	Chairperson: <i>Alena Zukersteinova</i> (Cedefop)
14.30-15.30	Roundtable discussion: <b>Modelling the demand for and supply of skills</b> Introduction by <i>Ilias Livanos</i> (IER) and <i>Jan Sauermann</i> (ROA)
15.30-16.00	<i>Tea/Coffee break</i>
	Chairperson: <i>Peter Szovics</i> (Cedefop)
16.00-17.00	Roundtable discussion: <b>Implications for future labour market imbalances</b> Introduction by <i>Ben Kriechel</i> (ROA) and <i>Rob Wilson</i> (IER)
17.00-17.30	Roundtable discussion: <b>Dissemination of results</b> Introduction by <i>Alena Zukersteinova</i> (Cedefop) and <i>Rob Wilson</i> (IER) + example of dissemination tool
20.00	<i>Dinner in Medina restaurant</i>

## Friday, 16 October 2009

Chairperson: *Rob Wilson* (IER)

09.30-11.30 Working groups:

### **Feedback on the results: comments from Country Group Experts and from Individual Country Experts**

Introduction by *Rob Wilson* (IER)

Country group reports by *Haroldas Brozaitis* (PPMI), *Catalin Ghinararu* (INCSMPS), *Tim Grebe* (GIB) and *Pekka Tiainen* (Ministry of Employment & Economy)

11.30-12.00 *Tea/Coffee break*

Chairperson: *Peter Szovics* (Cedefop)

12.00-13.30 Roundtable discussion:

### **Update on methodological developments**

Introduction by *Jan Koucký* (EPC), *Unnada Chewpreecha* (CE) and *Tim Grebe* (GIB)

13.30-14.30 *Lunch*

Chairperson: *Edwin Camilleri* (Employment & Training Corporation)

14.30-15.00 **General discussion on pending issues**

15.00-16.00 **The way forward: the work programme for 2010-2011**

Introduction by *Rob Wilson* (IER) and *Alena Zukersteinova* (Cedefop)

Discussion

16.00-16.30 *End of workshop and Tea/Coffee*

## Contact details

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