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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Training for a green economy: urgent tasks for Europe

Cedefop's forthcoming study *Skills for Green Jobs* ⁽¹⁾ looks at the skills needed to develop a low-carbon economy in six Member States (Denmark, Estonia, France, Germany, Spain and the UK). The new Cedefop briefing note summarises the main results.

The publication, part of a broader study carried out with the International Labour Organisation (ILO), shows that there are no clear lines between developing entirely new 'green' jobs and skills, and re-tooling existing jobs and skills for sustainable development. What in one country is a new job, in another may simply involve a shift in an established occupation's competence.

Policy-makers should therefore **focus on improving and upgrading current skills** rather than developing entirely new training programmes for green jobs.

In addition, skill strategies must also address issues such as how to introduce an understanding of the environmental impact of occupations into our education and training systems.

Mainly, however, governments need to **attract more secondary and tertiary level students to science, mathematics and technology subjects**. Green development requires more engineers than Europe is now producing; such gaps affect industry more than shortages of 'new' skills.

To encourage people to invest in upskilling, **governments must also make a long-term commitment** to renewable energy and sustainable development.

Briefing Note: [Deutsch](#) [Ελληνικό](#) [English](#) [Español](#) [Français](#) [Italiano](#)

⁽¹⁾ Cedefop: *Skills for Green Jobs: European synthesis report* (forthcoming 2010). See also, ILO: *Skills for Green Jobs: global synthesis report* (forthcoming 2010)

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About Cedefop

The European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training (Cedefop), an agency of the European Union based in Thessaloniki, Greece, supports European policy-making in the field of vocational education and training.

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