



## “Skills for a low carbon Europe: the role of vocational education and training in a sustainable energy scenario”

26 April 2012

GHK Consulting Ltd, 146 Rue Royale, Brussels

### Introduction

The European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training (Cedefop) has commissioned GHK Consulting Ltd (GHK), in collaboration with the Institute for Employment Research (IER) and Cambridge Econometrics (CE), to undertake this research to explore the employment effects and policy implications for vocational education and training (VET) of the transition towards a more sustainable economy.

The primary assumption of the project is that the positive impacts of a transition to a low carbon economy can be maximised only by developing the skills, knowledge and competences of organisations to operate resource-efficient processes and technologies; and integrating these requirements into policy frameworks and instruments, to ensure they are specified, recognised and supported.

This study combines quantitative and qualitative approaches to investigate the expected impact of *sustainable energy policies* on future skill demand within and across sectors, in order to provide insights for effective policies for initial and continuous VET activities that enable skills demands to be met.

The validation workshop will discuss the preliminary findings of the policy scenarios, including sustainable energy and employment policy options and the interactions between them. It will also present policy examples of the role of vocational education and training for renewable energy and energy efficiency within the context of four domains: Wind power, solar thermal heating and cooling, public buildings, and road freight transport and logistics

### Meeting objectives

The objectives of the meeting are to:

- Validate sustainable energy policy-driven economic scenarios consistent with Europe 2020 targets for renewable energy and energy savings;
- Discuss workforce composition, skill needs and policy implications brought about by the scenario identified;
- Explore issues in the coherence and coordination between VET and other relevant policy areas;
- Discuss examples of relevant national, regional and local policy strategies, programmes and initiatives across Europe in the four domains of interest.

### Key questions and expected outcome

- Is there an inherent conflict between employment growth and energy use? And how can employment and social policy design help to overcome this?
- What is the role of VET in stimulating positive employment and energy outcomes? And which policy measures should be pursued or avoided?
- How does the rate of employment affect VET systems and delivery?
- What are the key challenges for VET policy in supporting transition to a low carbon, high employment Europe?

The outcomes of this workshop will be used to finalise the policy scenarios and shortlist case studies for further analysis.

## Participants

The workshop will include a restricted expert panel drawing from researchers, sectoral representatives and other relevant stakeholders.

Key members of the study team from GHK, CE and IER will facilitate the workshop.

- James Medhurst – Principal Director (GHK)
- Joel Marsden – Consultant (GHK)
- Hector Pollitt – Associate Director (CE)
- Ilias Livanos – Research Fellow (IER)

## Draft Agenda

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09.30 – 10.00	<i>Registration, tea and coffee</i>
10.00 – 10.30	<b>Introduction</b> Welcome by Cedefop, Antonio Ranieri  Tour de table (15 minutes) <i>Invited experts briefly explain who they are and why they are interested in the topic of the project</i>  Presentation of the context of the project and meeting organisation, Cedefop
10.30 – 12.30	<b>Policy scenarios: development, outcomes and policy implications</b>  Presentation of the policy scenarios, Hector Pollitt (CE) <i>Questions and answers</i>  Discussion around the relationship between energy, employment and VET policy in Europe Key messages and policy implications for VET in a sustainable energy scenario
13.30 – 16.15	<b>The role of VET in a sustainable energy scenario - developing policy case studies</b>  Presentation of the identified case studies, Joel Marsden (GHK) <i>Questions and answers</i>  <i>Discussion around the case studies of interest for further investigation</i>  <b>Scope for policy intervention</b>  Discussion around the type of VET policy support/actions that can foster skills for a low carbon economy
16.15 – 16.30	<b>Conclusions and wrap up</b>  Summary of key points from discussions, James Medhurst (GHK)  Closure, Antonio Ranieri

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