



SKILLSNET e-bulletin: February 2017

Highlight of the month

Skills Panorama: Which skills will make a difference?



“So, what will you be when you grow up?” Ranging from fireman to ballet dancer, astronaut to truck driver, there have been numerous responses to this question, across borders and generations. “I am not sure yet” is often not well-greeted, especially as the respondent ages. However, now more than ever, information on future trends is necessary to reduce uncertainty about professional career choices.

In the future, not only new occupations will emerge, so that a great share of current pupils are foreseen to hold jobs that do not exist today, but current occupations are expected to change in job content and tasks- some of them significantly. Key drivers of global magnitude such as automation/machine learning, the Internet of Things and other technological advancements, climate change and shifts in demographic composition of countries already disrupt the state of play in production lines, service delivery, consumer preferences, and regulation among others. These drivers shape employment, occupational structure and qualifications needs in all economic sectors Find more [here](#).

News from Cedefop and the European Commission

Cedefop: #ESJsurvey INSIGHTS No 9 - The great divide

In the ninth in a series of articles on insights from the survey, Cedefop expert Konstantinos Pouliakas notes that ‘the digital divide is alive and well. A strikingly high share of the EU adult workforce is still employed in a semi-analogue world, at the same time that others are faced with technological obsolescence. Reaping the full benefits of digitalisation will require modernisation of education and training systems but, crucially, more investment in digital capital infrastructure and continuing online learning for groups excluded from the digital economy.’ Cedefop’s #ESJsurvey was carried out in 2014 in all 28 EU Member States, collecting information on the match of the skills of about 49 000 workers. Read here the [whole article](#).

VET students are satisfied with their job-related skills



Almost nine out of ten graduates (87%) who have gone through vocational education and training (VET) are happy with the work-related skills they have acquired, while only 62% of general education graduates report being satisfied with their acquired job related

skills. The figures are consistent across countries, with all country averages showing that VET graduates are more satisfied with the job-related skills acquired in comparison to general education graduates. Read more [here](#).

News from Skillsnet members

OECD: Portugal should build on reforms to boost job creation

Comprehensive reforms to Portugal’s labour market between 2011 and 2015 have helped create jobs and reduce the country’s high unemployment rate but important challenges remain, according to a new OECD report. Labour Market Reforms in Portugal 2011-2015 – A Preliminary Assessment says that, since economic growth turned positive in early 2013, Portugal has seen major improvements in both employment and unemployment rates that are better than expected given the pace of the recovery. But joblessness remains high, particularly among youth, and this has driven an increase in poverty and long-term unemployment. The labour market remains highly divided between workers on permanent and temporary contracts. Read more [here](#).

Spain: new techniques for skills anticipation: big data

Globalisation and technological changes are bringing about new trends in the labour market and challenges for policy-makers, businesses and workers. Anticipating skill needs and being prepared to meet them effectively is one of the leitmotifs of the political agenda. The 2013 labour authority VET reform specifies that public training provision has to supply the skills that meet productivity and competitiveness requirements of enterprises and challenges arising from changes in production systems. It also needs to support career and personal development and worker employability. Read more [here](#).

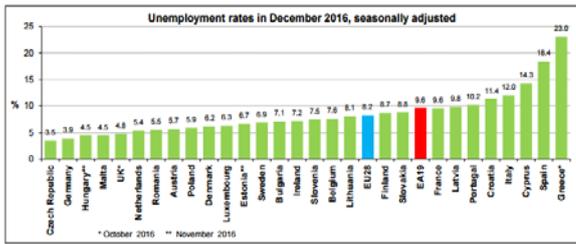
Italy: ESCO - investment in job matching supports employment and mobility

At the beginning of 2016, the European Commission launched a series of ‘country visit’ initiatives aimed at assessing the different national classifications of occupations, skills and qualifications in the labour market. ESCO originates within this framework and within the initiative New skills for new jobs, which highlighted the need to develop a common skills language able to create stronger training, education and labour market links. Read more [here](#).

European Commission: The Youth Guarantee in practice: Theodora's traineeship leads to employment

Having studied banking, insurance and social security at university, Theodora Dobрева was looking forward to putting what she'd learned to good use in her career. Instead, she found herself working basic and low-paid jobs in fields that didn't interest her. "I was disappointed because this wasn't what I had studied for," she says. She'd been unemployed for a month when an acquaintance at an accounting firm told her about the New Opportunity for Youth Employment programme. One of several opportunities offered in Bulgaria through the Youth Guarantee scheme, the programme gives young people the chance to do a tailored six-month traineeship. In Theodora's case, she could do a traineeship in accounting. Find more [here](#).

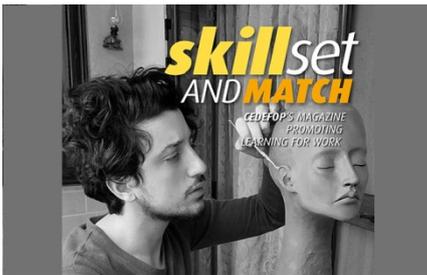
Eurostat: Euro area unemployment at 9.6%



The euro area (EA19) seasonally-adjusted unemployment rate was 9.6% in December 2016, down from 9.7% in November 2016 and down from 10.5% in December 2015. This is the lowest rate recorded in the euro area since May 2009. The EU28 unemployment rate was 8.2% in December 2016, stable compared to November 2016 and down from 9.0% in December 2015. This remains the lowest rate recorded in the EU28 since February 2009. These figures are published by Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union. Download the report [here](#).

Publications and reports on skills

Cedefop: 'Skillset and match' January issue is out!



The January 2017 issue of Skillset and match, Cedefop's magazine promoting learning for work, is now available to read and download. In this issue, we look at the, highly successful, first European vocational skills week, of which Cedefop was a partner. There are also interviews with Professor Andreas Kazamias on educating the soul for a more human world and with adult learner Una Buckley from Ireland on discovering the joy of learning at 50. Find more [here](#).

Cedefop's Briefing note - Shaping, valuing and informing vocational education and training policy

Over the period 2017-20, Cedefop will continue to respond to changing needs. The labour market has never been static. It has always been moved by economic winds and technology. People in the labour force have continually adapted to its changing needs. Today the challenge is not change, but its speed. The telephone took 75 years to have 50 million users; after 20 years the mobile phone has 2 billion. The World Economic Forum estimates that two thirds of children entering primary school today will work in jobs that do not yet exist. Without nurturing skills, people and enterprises are in danger of being left behind. Find more [here](#).

Estonia: new evidence of skills needs in three sectors

The Estonian qualifications authority has completed the pilot of a new labour market needs monitoring and forecasting system (known by its Estonian acronym OSKA). OSKA is a strong analytical tool for enhancing the employability of graduates and, in the longer term, for contributing to productivity and economic growth. The first three OSKA reports on ICT, accounting, and the forestry and timber industry were published in 2016 alongside a general overview of global and domestic trends influencing the supply and demand of labour in Estonia. An additional 20 reports will cover all major sectors. The key message common to all sectors is to increase the workforce capable of generating added value. Read more [here](#).

Sweden: skills assessment and anticipation in Sweden scrutinized by OECD

In November 2016 the OECD presented an in-depth analysis of Sweden's system for skills assessment, anticipation and response. Even though Sweden has become a leader among OECD countries in collecting information on current and future skills needs, several areas of improvement have been identified to tackle skills mismatch. Read more [here](#).

Estonia: 2017 is the Year of skills

Year 2017 has been declared the Year of skills, aiming to developing a mind-set that craftsmanship and skills are appreciated in society and on the labour market. With events all over Estonia, young people and adults will be encouraged to use a wide range of opportunities to learn and improve their skills. Public debate on future skills, and on the links between education system outcomes and the labour market, will be actively promoted. Read more [here](#).

Forthcoming skills related events

ITC / ILO Academy on Skills Development 2017

Date: 8 – 19 May 2017, **Place:** Turin Centre, Italy

This Academy is a unique learning, knowledge-exchange and networking opportunity for everyone who wants to make a difference in the area of skills development and TVET in developing and emerging economies. It is directed at policy makers, government officials, social partner representatives and other experts and practitioners working in national institutions and NGOs, but also at experts working at the regional and international level. The Academy aims at stimulating learning and knowledge exchange on policies, challenges and options for building effective, responsive and inclusive skills development and TVET systems. Read more [here](#).

ILO: International conference on jobs and skills mismatch

Date: 11 – 12 May 2017, **Place:** Geneva, Switzerland

This conference will consider both new research on the different forms of mismatch and the measurement challenges that impact our understanding of this issue. Aims to deepen understanding of the labour market effects of various types of skill mismatch and how they can be best measured in different country contexts. The conference will also provide a global perspective on the topic by presenting insights from the Asia Pacific, Europe, Latin America and Africa regions. Find more [here](#).

ILO: Global unemployment expected to rise by 3.4 million in 2017

Economic growth continues to disappoint and deficits in decent work remain widespread. The global unemployment rate is expected to rise modestly from 5.7 to 5.8 per cent in 2017 representing an increase of 3.4 million in the number of jobless people, a new ILO report shows. The number of unemployed persons globally in 2017 is forecast to stand at just over 201 million – with an additional rise of 2.7 million expected in 2018 – as the pace of labour force growth outstrips job creation, according to the ILO's World Employment and Social Outlook – Trends 2017 (WESO). Find more [here](#).

Cedefop's Policy Learning Forum: Skills matching policies for the long-term unemployed: Putting VET at the centre of activation

NEW date: 15 – 16 June 2017, **Place:** Thessaloniki, Greece

Call for the expression of interest: The aim of this Policy Learning Forum is to focus on the 'practical' elements of a successful skills matching policy for activation that relies on better integration of the long-term unemployed into sustainable jobs. The Policy Learning Forum will seek to 'put policy into practice', by promoting a deeper understanding of the underlying mechanisms and triggers that can underpin effectiveness. It will serve as a platform for collecting innovative EU examples of skills matching policies and practices (both public and private) that can tackle long-term unemployment. It will facilitate mutual learning between key stakeholders who are engaged in the design and delivery of VET and skills matching programs as part of activation policies. Read more [here](#).

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The Skillsnet network

Skillsnet members have the opportunity to inform other members of our network about new projects, events, activities or publications related to early identification of skill needs throughout the year. If you are interested to inform other members, please submit your short article / information (max of 100 words) to **Ioannis Katsikis** whenever you have any news to disseminate.

